

Israelis wound 6 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot and wounded six Palestinians in the occupied territories Saturday, and Arab nationalists were suspected of setting fire to four more cars in Jerusalem. In the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, Palestinians said Israeli troops wounded five Arabs in the market, a labyrinth of narrow streets known as a stronghold for activists in the 31-month-old Palestinian uprising. They said clashes erupted when Israeli soldiers tried to arrest masked, hatchet-wielding fundamentalist activists holding a para-military parade. Residents said activists from rival nationalist groups came to the marchers' aid, firing "warning" shots from pistols and hurling stones at the soldiers, wounding one in the head. An army spokesman said troops did not hear any shots being fired by Palestinians during the clash. Military sources said a soldier was slightly wounded during a stone-throwing incident after a patrol spotted masked Palestinians. The sources said four Arabs were wounded by plastic bullets.

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Mayors hold joint meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 50 mayors from around the country gathered at the University of Jordan Saturday for a five-day seminar on municipal work, local administration and municipal services carried out in cooperation with other departments and ministries. The mayors will attend lectures and take part in discussion on administrative issues in addition to local government procedures, cooperation with ministries of water and irrigation, finance and public works as well as electricity companies in their respective regions and the department of lands and survey. Addressing the opening session was Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughali who said that his ministry, which organized the seminar, has prepared a programme of seminars and training courses for the municipalities' staff in a bid to promote municipal councils' efforts to improve services. "Municipal councils and mayors, he said, are encouraged to adopt plans that would serve as a part of an overall regional strategy that can cater for improved municipal services and a healthier environment," the minister said.

Prince Faisal gives awards to raid winners

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Saturday distributed awards to winners in the Jordan Cross-Country Raid, which ended Friday. The winners were Qatar's Saeed Al Hajiri in the first place, Suhail Ben Khalifa of the United Arab Emirates in the second place, and Naser Al Atyeh of Qatar in the third place.

Egypt welcomes Jeddah talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esam Abdul Meguid said Saturday the Jeddah meeting between Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials is a step on the right way to solve the dispute between the two countries. "We in the Arab World look forward for this step, which is the beginning for others which will take place in Baghdad and Kuwait," he said. Abdul Meguid welcomed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decision to raise the price of oil and wished OPEC member states success.

Qian in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Algiers Saturday on the last stage of a Middle East tour. Qian, who has already been to Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, is on a visit which lasts till Monday, the official news agency APS said. He will see Algerian Foreign Minister Sidahmed Ghazali but officials gave no details of his talks.

Kurds free 154 Iranians

BAGHDAD (R) — A Kurdish group battling the government in Tehran said Saturday it had freed 154 Iranian prisoners of war as a humanitarian gesture. Ghafour Hamaizi, representative of the Baghdad-based Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, said the soldiers, captured during the past two months, were released from a prison inside Iran three days ago.

French team leaves Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A French inquiry team left Lebanon for Paris Saturday after investigating an arms smuggling scandal allegedly involving French embassy guards in Beirut. The four officials, who arrived Wednesday to probe how rocket launchers and other weapons were smuggled from Lebanon into France, declined to discuss their mission. Fifteen people, including 10 policemen, have been charged in France over the affair. Up to 150 French gendarmes are based in Beirut to protect French envoys and diplomatic premises.

Lagos executes 42, hunts more 'plotters'

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian authorities expanded their hunt for suspects in a coup plot Saturday after military rulers carried out the country's biggest mass execution in recent history. In a radio and television broadcast Friday, Chief of General Staff Augustus Aikhomu said 42 people had been shot by firing squad for attempting to overthrow the government of President Ibrahim Babangida April 22. He urged citizens to help security forces track down 13 fugitives with a price on their heads. They include two civilian businessmen, a lieutenant-colonel and a major, jointly accused of organising the junior officers' rebellion which has heightened religious and ethnic tensions in Africa's most populous nation.

Morocco to buy nuclear reactor for research

RABAT (R) — Morocco has signed an agreement with the U.S. firm General Atomics to buy a nuclear reactor for research, the Ministry of Energy and Mines said. A statement said the reactor, Morocco's first, would have a capacity of 1.5 megawatts and would cost more than \$4 million.

Badran, Sedki brief King on higher committee talks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nade' Palace heads and members of the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Joint Committee who started a two-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss issues of common interest and to review bilateral cooperation.

The joint committee, co-chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and His Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki, briefed the King on the topics for discussion at the meeting and progress in joint ventures.

King Hussein stressed the importance of the committee's work for the benefit of the two countries, the other two members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the rest of the Arab World.

Badran and Sedki earlier held the first round of discussions covering means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in economy, trade, industry, health, science, culture, information, transport, energy, manpower and telecommunications, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The two prime ministers had a private meeting before calling in members of the two delegations who included the Jordanian ministers of interior, foreign affairs, supply, finance, industry and trade, labour, energy and mineral resources, agriculture, planning, education and higher education, as well as a team of specialists, according to Petra.

The agency said that on the Egyptian side the meeting was attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, planning, agriculture, transport, energy, industry, economy, education and manpower and the minister of state for international cooperation as well as a team of specialists.

At the outset of the meeting Badran said that the committee was continuing the process of integration between Jordan and Egypt at a time when the Arab Nation was facing major challenges.

Enhancing Arab solidarity, he said, means providing the Arabs with the proper weapon for confronting and dealing with these challenges.

He said integration and solidarity is particularly important at this critical stage as the world continues to witness the emergence of political and economic blocs which are achieving success.

The higher committee, the prime minister added, is pursuing a sound course leading to integration following the directives of King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak.

Sedki emphasised Egypt's keenness on pursuing the goal of close cooperation and coordination with all Arab states, specially at this time when the world is witnessing the success of various economic blocs. The Arab states are bound to follow a similar

pattern in order to safeguard their own national interest, he said.

Referring to Jordanian-Egyptian relations, Sedki said that Egypt can never forget Jordan's efforts and its continued support for the Egyptian people.

The higher committee was holding a second round of meeting at the Prime Ministry Saturday evening.

The volume of the trade protocol signed between Jordan and Egypt amounts to \$109 million of which \$52 million are Jordanian exports and \$57 million are Egyptian exports, according to Egyptian Minister of Economy Yusri Mustafa.

Mustafa said in a statement to the Middle East News Agency (MENA) that the protocol includes a parallel deal worth \$65 million shared equally between the two countries.

After the meeting with King Hussein, Sedki expressed his admiration of and appreciation for the King and the appreciation of Egypt for Jordan, the King, government and people, and affirmed that the Egyptian people will never forget His Majesty's stands supporting Egypt.

Sedki said in a statement to Jordan Television the meeting with King Hussein covered not only regional issues but also issues of interest to the whole Arab Nation.

Fahd pursues efforts to arrange Iraq-Kuwait talks

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal delivered messages from King Fahd to the leaders of Kuwait and Iraq Saturday as the kingdom pushed to get the two sides to the negotiating table.

Diplomatic sources said they believed the messages contained invitations from the Saudi monarch to Kuwait's Crown Prince-Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Iraqi second-in-command Ezzat Ibrahim to meet in Jeddah.

Faisal's mission was preceded by an official Saudi statement welcoming a "bilateral meeting between representatives of Iraq and Kuwait in Jeddah over the coming few days, God willing, to thrash out all differences through fraternal and cordial dialogue."

The statement, attributed to a responsible government source and circulated by the Saudi Press Agency, said the meeting was the result of the mediation efforts of King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to contain the "transient rifts" between the two countries.

It said the Saudi government was "deeply satisfied with the response of both Iraq and Kuwait to the goodwill efforts and grateful to all Arab leaders who have been working to realise Arab solidarity."

Iraq has termed this upcoming meeting a protocol step, demanding it be followed by working talks in Baghdad.

The diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, noted that oil, financial and legal experts from Kuwait and Iraq are expected to get together separately in the Saudi summer capital to work out the terms of an agreement on the oil, border and loans dispute.

The experts are expected to work quietly and behind the scenes while the mediators try to reconcile divergent views.

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Egyptian presidential advisor

Osama Al Baz was in both countries ahead of the meeting. So was Chadli Klibi, the secretary-general of the Arab League.

Iraq demanded compensation for \$2.4 billion worth of oil it said Kuwait stole from its southern Rumailah oil field, which straddles their joint border.

Kuwait insisted on a final demarcation of the border that has remained undefined since Kuwait gained its independence in 1961 and Iraq threatened to enforce its claim to the entire area.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan is due in Cairo soon for talks with Mubarak, Al Massa newspaper said Saturday.

Mubarak had telephone talks with Sheikh Zayed last week after Iraq accused Kuwait and the UAE of stabbing it in the back by exceeding their OPEC quotas and driving down oil prices.

Al Massa said Sheikh Zayed was due in Cairo in the next few days but gave no other details.

Neeman retracts chemical threat

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Science Minister Yuval Neeman backed away Saturday from his call for Israel to respond in kind to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's warning that he would use chemical weapons to retaliate if the Jewish state attacked any Arab state.

In the most far-reaching statement by an Israeli leader on the subject, Neeman said Friday that Israel was ready to counter Iraqi "threats."

"In my opinion, we have an excellent response, and that is to threaten (Saddam) Hussein with the same merchandise," said Neeman in an interview on Israel radio.

"And if there is an enemy like this, it is possible to prepare a suitable response," Neeman, who is also head of Israel's space programme, said. "I have no doubt that also today we can respond to a threat like this."

Israel is widely believed to have chemical weapons, but officials have never admitted it. A source in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office indicated Friday that Shamir was displeased with Neeman's declaration.

King: National Charter means new era

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday urged the General Commission entrusted with drafting the National Charter to double its efforts and work in unison to prepare the charter, which he described as a serious responsibility.

Addressing a commission meeting, the King said that he had been following the progress of the commission's work and had been constantly briefed by the commission chairman, Ahmad Obeidar.

He said once completed the

national charter would mark the beginning of a new stage in Jordan's political life.

The King said that when he called the commission to embark on its mission he did not set the course or the method for its work because "the most important thing here is to take speedy and a sound course to achieve the aspired goals."

King Hussein voiced appreciation to the members of the commission and said that they represent all public sectors so that all can work in unity and

can achieve the required objectives.

"We have chosen the road to democracy and we have transformed the ideas into practice and have set a good example for others doing our duty to serve our people and nation," the King said.

Last year's parliamentary elections he said, came after a long and difficult period. "We are determined to follow the course of democracy, regardless of the challenges and the dangers," the King stressed.

"We are not against one another, and we have never been so, but we have been working together on this land, the land of the Great Arab Revolt, which advocated unity and freedom," King Hussein said. He urged all commission members to double their efforts in word and deed so that the aspired goals can be achieved.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the King's advisors.

Investments law sparks controversy

By Abdullah Hassanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday deferred until next Saturday formal discussions over the draft of a government-proposed investment law but passed three of its 16 articles.

The draft law has already passed through the House's Finance Committee, which approved it with some proposed amendments. However, the main point of contention was Article 4 which grants foreign investors the possibility to invest in most domains in Jordan, including housing, agriculture, industry, education, tourism, information, telecommunications and health.

Deputy Hussein Mjalli (Jerash independent), described Article 4 as "the most dangerous" of the draft law's articles. "Industrial development cannot be attained with foreign capital," said Mjalli, who chairs the House Legal Com-

mittee. He proposed the article be rewritten to ensure that "Zionist capital will not get into the country."

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdullah Akayleh, who is the Finance Committee's rapporteur, said the issue was discussed thoroughly in the committee and that ministries and other official bodies will act as the "safety valve" and see to it that no investment will endanger national sovereignty.

Defending the government's position, Minister of Public Works Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh said that some deputies' linking this issue to what had happened in an Arab country — Egypt — was not fair. "Openness is a good term with bad reputation," he said, "but capital cannot be exploited unless the authorities want it to be."

Democratic Bloc Deputy Mohammad Faris Tarawneh said the draft law was of very special significance. "This is a law with

two aspects: A financial aspect and a sovereignty aspect."

The Karak deputy asked: "What about land ownership?" "We must make it clear in the law," and not leave it to the regulations, he said.

This point was also backed by deputies Thouqan Hindawi, independent from Irbid, and Atif Btoush, a Brotherhood deputy from Karak.

Btoush stressed that "if we gave the right to foreigners to (freely) invest in the country a day will come when we'll find it very difficult to get rid of them."

Earlier, Brotherhood deputies Hammad Said, Majed Khalifah and Mohammad Abu Faris insisted that the draft law be referred to the House Legal Committee before the second reading. The point was countered by House Speaker Sulaiman Arar, who recalled that after the first reading it was the House which referred the draft law to the

Finance Committee.

Arar resisted the call for referring the draft to the Legal Committee quoting the House internal regulations.

Legal Committee member Saleem Zoubi told Arar he did not agree with him on the meaning of Article 26 of the House internal regulations. "The Legal Committee should look at all draft laws," he said.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Fagir intervened: "There is no need to refer the draft law to the Legal Committee since the committee sits here in the House."

The first speaker in Saturday's session was Brotherhood Deputy Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant. The Sheikh charged that the local press did not cover the deputies' speeches, while it was "covering the government's inhalations and exhalations." He urged the press to "adhere to its message."

20 injured in blast on Tel Aviv beach

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A pipebomb exploded on a crowded Tel Aviv beach Saturday, wounding 20 people, including four Canadian tourists, and prompting attacks by crowds of enraged Israelis on Arabs in the area.

Police said the device was a homemade pipe bomb. After the blast scores of officers searched the Tel Aviv waterfront which had been packed with sunbathers on the Sabbath.

Police said they suspected a political motive for the attack and arrested dozens of Arabs. They also escorted a number of Palestinians away from Israeli screaming "Death to Arabs."

Nineteen injured were brought to Ichilov hospital from the Tel Aviv beach, and all except one 17-year-old Canadian tourist have been released, a hospital spokesman said.

He said a 17-year-old Canadian girl was in moderate condition and was being operated on. He declined to disclose the tourist's name. The hospital suspects her liver may have been damaged in the explosion.

Three other young Canadian girls were released after being treated for ear injuries, the spokesman said.

An AP photographer said that the Canadian group was in Israel for a seven-week tour.

Canadian diplomats were unavailable for comment.

A twentieth victim, a nine-year-old boy, was brought into

Tel Aviv Hadassah hospital for treatment and released, hospital officials there said.

Israel army radio quoted police as saying this was one of the worst incidents on a Tel Aviv beach in recent years.

Police said 13 Arabs were detained, suspected of planting the bomb.

"A homemade bomb was put in a beach bag on Jerusalem beach minutes from the city's Dizengoff downtown centres. It exploded injuring 20 people," a police spokesman said. "Thirteen Arabs have been detained."

He added that seven Jews were held for questioning after attacking Arabs on the beach and stoning their cars after the explosion. Jews also roamed the beachfront hotels beating up the Arab workers.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the pipebomb blast.

After the explosion police searched all Tel Aviv beaches for additional bombs but none were discovered.

Hundreds of Israelis blocked traffic on a main Tel Aviv street, pounding on Arab-owned cars bearing licence plates from the occupied territories. Police dispersed the Jewish protesters.

Journalists and press photographers were also beaten by protesters, as they have after previous bomb attacks aimed at Jews.

Stand-off in Trinidad after coup attempt

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (R) — Troops Saturday surrounded Trinidad and Tobago's parliament building where a radical black Muslim group held the prime minister and about 11 other officials captive in a coup attempt in which 25 people have been killed.

Witnesses said parts of the capital were ablaze and there was sporadic firing going on between forces loyal to Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and supporters of the radical Jamaat Al Muslim group, which staged the attempted coup.

The Caribbean News Agency (CANA) quoted hospital sources as saying about 22 people, including several police officers, have been killed in gunfights between the two sides since the coup began late Friday.

State-run radio also said there were "lots of wounded" and appealed for all available doctors and nurses to go to the city's hospitals to cope with the influx of victims.

Rebel leader Yasin Abu Bakr said in a morning television broadcast that he had overthrown Robinson's government and charged were to be brought against him and members of his cabinet.

At least three people were reported killed when the radical group, which the government has linked to Libya, stormed into parliament while lawmakers were

in session about 6 p.m. (2200 GMT) and seized 20 officials. No government officials are known to have been hurt.

The group, which the government estimates to number between 250 and 500, was armed with AK-47 rifles. They were holding their captives in the ornate parliamentary chamber and also had taken up barricaded positions on the street outside.

The acting president of Trinidad, Emanuel Carter, declared in a pre-dawn radio broadcast that the government was in control.

"The legally constituted Trinidad and Tobago government is still very much in charge of the situation in the country," said Carter, who was filling in while President Noor Hassan Ali was on vacation in Britain.

Carter declared a state of emergency and imposed an indefinite curfew.

The group, which also seized the state-run television station, released eight of the 20 captives early on Saturday after mediation by an Anglican priest. Those freed included two government ministers.

Gunfire was heard in the direction of the television station, located in northeastern Port-of-Spain about three kilometres from the parliament building and the main police station. Buildings also were burning in eastern Port-of-Spain.

Hrawi government to impose sanctions on Aoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The government of President Elias Hrawi announced Saturday it will take "the proper measures" to end a rebellion by General Michel Aoun, the former army commander who heads a rival administration in the Christian enclave of Lebanon.

The decision taken during an emergency meeting of Hrawi's 14-man cabinet came after intensive political and diplomatic efforts failed to persuade Aoun to accept an Arab League-sponsored national reconciliation plan and step aside.

A statement issued at the end of the four-hour cabinet meeting charged Aoun was responsible for last year's fighting that left at least 900 people dead and 3,000 wounded.

Political sources in west Beirut said the Hrawi government

hoped shortages resulting from sanctions would create discontent among traditional Aoun supporters, undermining the general's power base in the Christian enclave.

Government sources told Reuters the cabinet agreed to cut the supply of fuel and commodities and to withhold the salaries of civil servants in areas under Aoun's control.

The central bank, which is based in west Beirut, would be asked to stop cash flow into east Beirut branches.

The government would ask foreign diplomats to halt any contact with the defiant general.

"The government has finally decided to oust Aoun by using all necessary means," said one source. However, the "means" stopped short of military force. Aoun had launched a six-

month "war of liberation" to drive the Syrian army from Lebanon. This pitted his 19,000 loyal Christian soldiers against Syrian troops and allied Lebanese militiamen.

A cease-fire ended the fighting in September. This followed the acceptance by all Lebanese political leaders, except Aoun, of an agreement worked out under Arab League auspices by the Lebanese parliament which convened in the Saudi Arabian town of Taif.

Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi left Beirut Saturday after failing to convince Aoun to end his mutiny and accept a new government initiative to apply the Taif agreement.

Aoun rejects the Taif accord which is designed to end the 15-year-old civil war through the equal sharing of power by the two

communities.

He also refused to accept Hrawi's election by both Christian and Muslim members of parliament on Nov. 24, demanding new parliamentary elections.

Beirut newspapers predicted that the unspecified government steps include the imposition of an economic blockade of the segment of Lebanon's Christian enclave controlled by Aoun.

Another part of the enclave is controlled by Lebanese Forces militia leader Samir Geagea who recognises the Hrawi government and accepts the Taif accord.

Earlier this year the forces of Aoun and Geagea fought a bloody but inconclusive battle for control of the enclave. Speculation was that a deadline would be set for the troops under Aoun's command to declare allegiance to the Hrawi government.

Iran welcomes release of gunman in France

TEHRAN (R) — Iran Saturday welcomed the release of a pro-Iranian Lebanese gunman from a French jail and a Tehran newspaper said it could help efforts to free Western hostages in Lebanon.

The Iranian news agency IRNA reported that Anis Naccache and four colleagues arrived in Tehran Friday night after being pardoned by French President Francois Mitterrand.

France had jailed them for killing two people in an unsuccessful bid to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in Paris in 1980.

ported that the kidnappers were about to free a European captive. However nothing has yet come of the report.

The Tehran Times said the French decision "is expected to leave a positive impact in areas — finding solutions to humanitarian issues in the region, promoting France's image among Lebanese Muslims and reducing snags in the way of expansion of Tehran-Paris ties."

French protest

French right-wing opposition politicians have protested against the release of Naccache, calling the move humiliating.

"It's a humiliation for France and an insult to the victims," said rightist Deputy Herve de Charette.

Ex-President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's centre-right Republican Party, of which Charette is a member, said the pardon "was not flattering for democracy."

Extreme rightist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen said the move showed a two-tier justice in France: "One which follows reasons of state another for ordinary citizens."

The neo-Gaullist RPR party, whose leader Jacques Chirac was premier in the mid-1980s when France secured the release of several of its nationals held hostage in Lebanon, said little about Friday's release.

Charles Pasqua, who was interior minister at the time, insisted Friday that no deal was struck with Hizbollah, for the gunman's release.

Mitterrand's office made no comment on the pardon, which French television commentators pointed out was made in the middle of the holiday season when public attention was likely to be turned elsewhere.

Television commentators predicted further developments, with some recalling international media reports that U.S. President George Bush had asked France to free Naccache as a first step towards the release of American hostages held by Iranian-backed Lebanese gunmen.

Bakhtiar told French radio he was puzzled by the release because the Iranian government "has respect for nobody."

The Paris office of Iran's anti-government Mnjahedeen-e-Khalq guerrillas said the release "would be seen as a green light to a bloodthirsty terrorist regime."

Arafat pledges peace in letter to Jewish leader

NEW YORK (R) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat, in a rare letter to a U.S. Jewish leader, has pledged to continue working towards peace in the Middle East and said he was confident the violence in the region could end.

The June 25 letter was released Thursday by Menachem Rosensaft, the president of the U.S. Labour Zionist Alliance, who was one of five American Jewish leaders who met Arafat in Stockholm in December 1988.

It came in response to an open letter to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader from

Rosensaft, published in Newsweek magazine in December, that called on Arafat to "renounce terrorism in fact, not just in rhetoric."

Following the December 1988 Stockholm meeting, Arafat recognised Israel's right to exist, renounced terrorism and made further statements that led to a U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Those talks were broken off, however, after a foiled Palestinian guerrilla raid on the Israeli coast on May 30, a raid that was not mentioned in the letter.

In the letter, Arafat said that

although Rosensaft was "a prisoner of the stereotype on the Palestinians" he hoped the Jewish leader would recognise the "historical compromise" made by the PLO.

Arafat also said: "I am confident that the chain of violence would definitely end if each of us makes the necessary steps to realise just and permanent peace."

He called on Israel to recognise the Palestinian "national rights," including the rights to "freedom, independence and sovereignty."

Rosensaft said the letter was significant in that "the tone is

positive. It shows an unequivocal commitment to the peace process."

"On the other hand, it is disappointing and insufficient in that it doesn't address in any way the real issue on the table regarding the (May 30) terrorist act and raises more questions than it answers."

Rosensaft said the PLO leader had continued to show a contradiction between the rhetoric and "the reality of Arafat refusing to condemn the May 30 raid or to take any steps to discipline those responsible for the raid."

Pardon for Naccache helps ease Franco-Iranian feud

By Nicholas Kotch Reuter

PARIS — France's decision to pardon a pro-Iranian Lebanese gunman Friday has removed a major obstacle blocking better relations with Tehran.

The release of Anis Naccache has been at the heart of diplomatic bargaining between the two countries over a nagging financial dispute.

French officials refused to say Friday what persuaded President Francois Mitterrand to exercise his power of pardon, allowing Naccache and four accomplices to step on an Iran Air flight to Tehran.

"We have absolutely no comment to make about the decision," one Mitterrand aide said. The official silence was bound

to feed speculation: that the pardon was linked to complex negotiations over repayment of the late Shah of Iran's \$1 billion loan to Eurodif, a French nuclear energy consortium.

Negotiations began in September 1989, marking the end of a poisonous chapter in relations which began shortly after Iran's 1979 revolution and included a break in diplomatic ties.

The Naccache affair has been a long-running source of conflict. He and his four-man guerrilla team were arrested in Paris in 1980 after killing policeman and a bystander during a failed assassination attempt on Shapur Bakhtiar, the Shah's last prime minister.

Naccache and three others were given life sentences and a fifth was jailed for 20 years in

1982. The talks in Paris and Tehran between Francois Scher, the top diplomat at the French Foreign Ministry, and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi have been conducted in total secrecy.

The two last met in Paris July 10, when French officials said publicly they did not discuss Naccache. Similar denials in the past have been greeted with scepticism.

The Iranian side however publicly called for Naccache's release, accusing France of reneging on a deal made in 1988, before adopting a more discreet position.

Tehran says former conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac agreed to free Naccache and his accomplices in return for

the release of four French hostages held by pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon. Chirac denies he made such an undertaking.

The way is now clear for progress in the row over the Shah's loan to France's Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 for the Eurodif programme, under which French companies would build nuclear power plants and Iran would buy enriched uranium to power them.

After the Shah's fall Iran suspended the programme and demanded the loan be repaid. France has so far given back \$670 million but held up the rest until Iran settles French claims.

A French appeal court helped improve the climate last March, when it rejected claims totalling more than \$1 billion by French companies which lost business.

Fierce fighting rages in Sidon

SIDON (Agencies) — Howitzers and multi-barrelled rocket launchers roared all day in South Lebanon Saturday as warring Shi'ite Muslim militias fought for control of a disputed mountainous region.

Police said at least 16 combatants were killed and 42 wounded in the fighting between the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the more secular, mainstream Amal militia, backed by Syria, in Iqlim Al Toufah southeast of Sidon.

Ambulances, sirens wailing,

evacuated casualties from the battle zone to hospitals in Sidon. Security sources said many bodies could not be evacuated due to intensity of the fighting.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) pleaded with the warring factions to abide by a four-hour "mercy ceasefire" scheduled for 10 a.m. (0700 GMT) Sunday to evacuate dead and wounded.

The statement, broadcast by local radio stations, threatened that ICRC rescue teams "would interrupt their humanitarian mis-

sion and immediately withdraw from the region in case of any violation of the mercy ceasefire."

The latest confrontation broke out at 4:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) at the Hizbollah-held village of Kfar Milki, 10 kilometres southeast of Sidon.

By noon (0900 GMT), the fighting had spread to Jarjoun on the southwestern edge of Hizbollah's enclave in the province, according to a police spokesman.

Amal militiamen were joined by Palestinian fighters in their assault on Kfar Milki.

The three-pronged attack, carried out under a hail of artillery, rocket and mortar fire, gained part of the village for Amal by noon, sources quoted by Reuters said.

"The combatants at Kfar Milki and nearby hills are fighting metres away from each other," said one source, 12 hours after the battle erupted.

The sources said it was the first time Palestinian guerrillas had joined a major offensive in the war for control of Iqlim Al Toufah.

PLO envoy chides U.S., praises Waldheim

VIENNA (AP) — The new Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative to Austria attacked the United States, praised President Kurt Waldheim and spoke highly of ousted East German and Romanian leaders Erich Honecker and Nicolae

Ceausescu in an interview broadcast Saturday.

"The Americans lied to us from the very beginning," said Faisal Owaida, 51, who is being granted the title ambassador by the Austrian government. Austria normally recognises coun-

tries, not governments.

In an interview with the Austrian state radio, the PLO mission chief, who has held the same post in London for several years before, said the dialogue with the U.S., which was suspended by Washington after Palestinian

commando raids in Israel, "never was really serious."

He asserted the Americans "lied" because they had originally promised talks with his organisation at government level but reduced them to ambassadorial level.

SLA — brutal, undisciplined Israeli puppets in S. Lebanon

By Mohammad Salam

MAJADIYEH, Lebanon — The gulley and hills of this killing ground echo with gunfire most days as guerrillas attack a Lebanese border zone occupied by Israel and its militia ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

At night, parachute flares fired to spot infiltrators cast a ghostly light around the hilltop forts manned by the 3,000-strong SLA, mostly Christians.

"They're human sandbags," says an officer of the United Nations peacekeeping force. "They absorb the raids and take the casualties rather than the Israelis. In return, the Israelis arm them, pay the bills and keep them in power."

The militia, backed by some 1,200 Israeli soldiers and hundreds of security agents, man the so-called "security zone," a strip of Lebanese territory that runs north of the border from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the foothills of Mount Hermon in the east.

It costs Israel \$3 million a

month to support the SLA, but for them it's money well spent. In the last 4½ years, nearly 200 militia fighters have been killed and some 600 wounded defending Israel in South Lebanon, where guerrillas fight among themselves as much as they do the Israelis.

No Israeli civilian has been slain in guerrilla raids from South Lebanon since 1985, although the guerrillas still occasionally fire ineffectual rocket salvos into northern Galilee.

Still, more than 30 Israeli soldiers have been killed in the "security zone" since it was established in mid-1985. That was when the Israelis withdrew after three years of occupying a large chunk of Lebanon, harried all the way by suicide bombers and guerrillas.

The zone 10-km to 16-km deep, joins a finger of territory held by the SLA that runs north to the mountain town of Jezzine, 25 kilometres above the Israeli border.

"Israel pays the SLA salaries and covers all our expenses," says Antoine Lahd, the silver-haired

retired Lebanese army officer who commands the SLA. "Israel provides us with all our needs. We protect the zone and Israel's northern borders."

Lahd, a Maronite Catholic, says his objective is "a normal relationship of good neighbourliness with Israel. They're our neighbours. We don't see any point in fighting them."

The Israelis invaded Lebanon in June 1982 "because Palestinians attacked them from Lebanon," he says.

"It's our duty to prevent anyone — the Palestinians, Iranians and others — from using our land to attack Israel," Lahd said in an interview at his heavily guarded villa in the SLA's headquarters complex in the mountain town of Marjayoun.

The Israelis insist they do not want to stay in South Lebanon.

The SLA emerged from a group of Christians armed by the Israelis in 1976 to combat Palestinian guerrillas. Lahd took over command of the SLA in 1984 after its leader, a renegade Lebanese army major named

Sead Haddad, died of cancer.

Lahd, 62, was wounded in November 1988 when a woman member of the Lebanese Communist Party, who was his wife's dance instructor, shot him in an assassination attempt.

The Lebanese government considers Lahd's force to be agents of the Israelis who occupy Lebanese territory and show no sign of withdrawing.

"But one day, when the Middle East crisis is over and the problem of Lebanon has been settled, we'll be integrated into the regular Lebanese armed forces," Lahd says. Given his cooperation with Israel, that remains to be seen.

The SLA is armed with obsolete Israeli tanks, artillery and other weaponry. Lahd says the militia is divided into two brigades of 1,500 fighters, most of them deployed along the 115 kilometre northern edge of the enclave.

Lahd's spokesman, Caesar Sagr, says the zone was attacked 353 times by infiltrators, roadside bombs, or artillery, mortar and

rocket bombardments last year, almost one a day.

"All the infiltration attempts were intercepted and dealt with in the security zone," Sagr says. The SLA fighters have a reputation for poor discipline and brutality. Most consider them Israeli mercenaries.

An SLA private is paid \$150 a month, six times the average wage in other parts of Lebanon, and a second lieutenant gets \$240.

Lahd has sought to recruit Shi'ites to give his army a sectarian mix. But many of those defected.

The Israelis say that better training by Israeli instructors has improved the SLA's discipline and reliability.

The Israelis in the zone are deployed primarily in strategic hilltop fire bases bristling with electronic surveillance equipment.

The Israeli air force regularly attacks Palestinian and Lebanese guerrilla bases to avenge major attacks. Israeli troops with tanks and helicopter gunships often

strike out of the zone on punitive raids, seizing suspects.

"The Israelis are not an occupation army," Lahd insists. "You don't see them in the streets or villages of the security zone. They don't interfere with the population."

Shin Beth role

But Shin Beth, Israel's "security" service, operates in the zone, along with an estimated 750 Lebanese agents and informers, U.N. officials say.

Most of the estimated 200,000 people living in the (525-square-kilometre) enclave are Muslims. The Christians total only about 69,000.

Their numbers have recently been swollen by some 20,000 people who fled fighting in the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

Many Muslims believe that Lahd, with Israel's blessing, seeks to turn the zone into a Christian mini-state, a perpetual buffer bound economically to Israel.

The Israelis and the SLA impose tight restrictions on combat

Ad backing Israeli army 'refusers' sparks furore

TEL AVIV (AP) — An ad placed in a mass-circulation daily supporting reserve soldiers' refusal to serve in the occupied territories has sparked a furor among Israeli left-wing politicians.

The ad was signed by 43 members of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement, but the party's leadership angrily denounced the move.

"The ad misleads the public, it misrepresents the position of our party," said Ran Cohen, member of parliament and the party's number three leader.

The party, known by the Hebrew acronym Ratz, has sought to remain within Israel's political mainstream by condemning soldiers refusing to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Refusal to serve in the occupied territories has met strong criticism in Israel.

Men and women are drafted into the military for two or three years at age 18 and men spend over a month each year in the reserves until the age of 55.

Over 100 reservists have served prison terms for refusing to serve in the occupied territories since the Palestinian uprising began 31 months ago.

Peace activists say the number

of "refusers" is far higher as many soldiers' requests not to serve in the occupied territories are granted. At the height of the uprising, the army said 10,000 soldiers served in the occupied territories in any given week.

Thursday's advertisement in the Hebrew daily Haaretz supported four reserve soldiers released from jail Friday morning.

The four soldiers, one of whom was a Ratz member, had refused to serve in the occupied territories.

"We... express respect for their courageous step, their standing for their moral views and their willingness to pay the price for their views," said the ad.

Party leaders fear that the impression they condone disobeying military orders will damage their call for negotiations with Palestinians.

"I think that 'refusal' can hurt the credibility of the peace camp among Israelis and among the Palestinians," Cohen said.

"Only as warriors can we sit down and give the Palestinians concessions," Cohen added. "I have met with the PLO and I know they respect us as fighters for our country, not as those refusing to serve."

Disabled Iranian athletes seek political asylum

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Three disabled Iranian athletes have used a 48-nation sports event in the Netherlands to seek asylum in the United States, the U.S. embassy and a private relief agency said Friday.

The three were part of a 125-member Iranian delegation at the 1990 World Championships for the Disabled, held in the northern Dutch city of Assen.

The episode began on the championship's final day Thursday, when two of the Iranians walked into the American consulate in Amsterdam and asked for political asylum in the United States, according to Leonardo Williams, a spokesman for the U.S. embassy in the Hague.

Williams told the Associated Press the two were told to report to the Amsterdam police for permission to stay in the Netherlands and then go to the Roman Catholic Immigration Bureau in the Hague.

That agency routinely handles asylum requests for the U.S. that are made here, said Williams, who refused to give any details on the two athletes, citing privacy

reasons. Championship organizer Henk Haan said the two were blind, but also couldn't provide more information.

Immigration bureau spokesman Jos van der Loos said a Dutch woman filed asylum applications for the two Friday morning, and added a third Iranian athlete contacted the agency by telephone later that morning to make his request for asylum in the U.S.

Both the woman and the telephone caller were told to come back Monday, when the official in charge of political asylum cases would be available, Van der Loos said.

Neither the names nor the whereabouts of any of the three were known, he said. Dutch television quoted Iranian team leader Feraidoon Akhbari as saying the atmosphere among the Iranian athletes was "depressive."

"Any moment now another athlete might stay away," Akhbari, a Dutch resident, was quoted as saying.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:40	News summary
18:10	Local programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
21:50	Arabic series
21:55	Programme review
21:45	Local programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Cartoons
18:15	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Hey Dad
21:10	The Nuclear Age "Zero Hour"
22:00	News in English
22:20	Hunter — "Unacceptable Loss"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:14	Fajr
05:44	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42	Dhuhr
16:23	'Asr
19:40	Maghreb
21:10	'Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetkha, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 683265	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654052	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A drop in temperatures will take place in the afternoon and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, coming down in desert areas. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Doha (KU)
06:50	Jeddah (RJ)
06:55	Karachi (RJ)
07:00	Cairo (RJ)
07:05	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
07:10	Bahrain (RJ)
07:15	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
07:20	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:25	Istanbul (RJ)
07:30	Paris (RJ)
07:35	Brunswick, Geneva (RJ)
07:40	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
07:45	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
07:50	London (RJ)
07:55	Aqaba (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:25	Larnaca (CY)
11:00	Jeddah (SV)

MARKET PRICES	
Upperhouse price in dir per kg	
Apples	720 / 650
Apricots	620 / 520
Bananas	500 / 450
Bananas (Mukammal)	450 / 400
Beans	440 / 380
Cabbage	130 / 80
Carrots	220 / 180
Cauliflowers	180 / 200
Corn	180 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	100 / 60
Cucumbers (small)	200 / 150
Eggplant	120 / 80
Fish	340 / 280
Garlic	900 / 700
Grapes	1200 / 900
Onions	280 / 220
Lentils	440 / 380
Malware	90 / 50
Marrows (large)	300 / 250
Marrows (small)	180 / 120
Onion (dry)	200 / 150
Oranges	450 / 400
Peaches	200 / 150
Pepper (hot)	200 / 150
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 150
Potatoes	250 / 200
Radish	150 / 100
Sage	300 / 250
Sweet melons	300 / 250
Tomatoes	200 / 150
Watermelon	180 / 120

Defaulters face telephone cut off

By Edna Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Thousands of citizens who failed to pay their dues to the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) for telephone calls made in the first four months of 1990 through the TCC head office in Amman Saturday to settle their bills before having to face a disruption of their telephone lines as warned by the TCC Director Mohammad Shahed Ismail.

The rush was prompted by a TCC announcement that as of Saturday, July 28, telephone subscribers who have failed to settle bills for telephone calls made in the first four months of 1990 will have their telephone services reduced to receiving calls, but not initiate telephone calls.

A TCC official told the Jordan Times Saturday afternoon that at least 20,000 subscribers in the Greater Amman area were affected by this decision because of their failure to settle their bills. He said that the majority of them had already paid.

Ismail said that subscribers will have their full telephone services restored immediately upon settling their dues, but he warned that these subscribers

will have a complete cut of telephone services in two weeks time if by then they had not paid their bills.

According to the official, TCC employees were instructed to stay as long as it would take in the late afternoon hours to handle matters related to the settlement of bills and the restoration of telephone services.

The TCC staff are sometimes insulted by subscribers who crowd into the offices, accusing them of failure to carry out their duty or being responsible for the crisis, complained the official who requested anonymity.

He said that many subscribers tend to forget about their bills until the crisis crops up, ignoring warnings in the press and TCC calls for an early settlement.

The TCC, he said, does not accept any payment by instalment except for humanitarian reasons no matter how large the bill is because by accepting this procedure, TCC will be rewarding those who fail to pay and encourage others to follow suit.

He said that subscribers around the country are now indebted by nearly JD 9 million to the TCC for telephone calls they have made in 1990 and before.

Women activists take case to Arar

By Mariam M. Shakhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A seven-member delegation representing the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) met Saturday with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sulaiman Arar to present him with a petition protesting recent decisions made by the Ministry of Social Development which affect the federation.

"The decisions in question would allow for illegal and disproportionate representation of some women while leaving out others," the delegation told Arar.

During the 20-minute meetings with the speaker in his Parliament chambers, the delegation, representing former and current municipal executive committees, presented its case in the form of a five-point petition. The delegation urged the speaker and many of the House's 80 representatives to study their plea to delay the federation's election of the national executive committee set for Aug. 5, and to urge the Ministry of Social Development to reconsider its interpretation of article 12 of the federation's charter.

While about 50 women lobbied in the Parliament halls, speaking to members of Parliament and other government officials, the delegation told Arar that "proportional representation" was the ultimate aim of their protest.

"We are asking for proportional representation, nothing more, nothing less," one delegate told Arar.

Article 12 of the federation's charter outlines guidelines for representation during municipal and national elections. The point in question is division of votes during the national elections.

Members of the delegation gave an example of Amman Governorate as the most obvious case of "disproportionate" representation. While the almost 4,500 women, members of the many societies, clubs and social institutions, are represented by five women at the general conference which elects the national executive committee, the 1,250 individual members are represented by 60 women.

"The case is obviously a question of disproportionate representation and since the Ministry of Social Development has taken it upon itself to interpret article 12 in such an

"unfair manner we have taken it upon ourselves to protest this interpretation," one member of the delegation told Arar.

Court case

While the members of previous national executive committee have taken Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh to court over that they claim was their illegal dismissal last May, federation members in Irbid also have a case in court against the ministry.

While the 60 representatives of the 1,250 independent federation members in Amman Governorate are considered ineligible to vote in the Aug. 5 elections, the 85 representatives of the 1,385 independent members in Irbid Governorate have been denied the right to participate in the Aug. 5 elections, federation activists say.

The former president of the Irbid chapter of the federation, Eida Mntaq, told the Jordan Times last week that the federation's members "have tried everything to reverse the ministry's decision. Now all we can do is go public with the issue."

According to ministry officials, the independent members in Irbid did not register "in time" to be counted.

Federation officials claim that the independent members in Irbid have been registered since 1989 while the independent members in Amman all registered in 1990.

'Political motives'

Some federation members have openly said that the interpretation of article 12 and the decision to cancel the participation of Irbid's independent members was a deliberate decision aimed at favouring "organised Islamic elements" in the federation.

Legal experts say that if the federation's members can legally prove their claim it would be a landmark in federation and union history in the Kingdom.

While Arar promised to discuss the matter with the minister of social development, federation members said that if no results came about as a result of Saturday's meeting, they seek a meeting with the prime minister.

Several members of Parliament openly supported the women in their quest and called on the ministry to reconsider its interpretation of article 12.

Girls camp opens

AJLOUN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened a six-day camp for Jordanian girls living or studying abroad and inspected facilities in the camp and the set programmes.

The camping activities, the third to be held in the country, were organised at Ajloun by the Ministry of Youth in conjunction with a number of other departments and includes visits to archaeological sites and Jordanian universities, and meetings with officials including the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Minister of Tourism Ahmad Karim Al Kabari.

The participants will attend lectures on Arab affairs, take part in seminars on socio-economic de-

velopment and carry out voluntary work in the Ajloun area in northern Jordan, according to the Ministry of Youth.

Minister of Culture and Acting Minister of Youth Khaled Al Karaki delivered an address at the opening ceremony stressing the need for such gatherings which, he said, are designed to bolster Jordanian youth's ties with their homeland.

The director of the camping activities in Ajloun, Hiyam Al Faraj, said that the camping activities will no doubt help the participants to be involved in local Jordanian life and contribute towards the country's development.

Child welfare — priority for society

By Saeda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Directing special attention to the needs of children when drawing up economic policies as well as freeing funds for the welfare of children were the focus of a one-day symposium held in Amman Saturday under the banner "protecting the children."

The conference discussed economic adjustment, economic policies, human development and the rights of Arab children.

In the opening session, senator Laila Sbaraf emphasised the importance of the conference stressing out the point that "failure to protect the physical, mental and emotional growth of children is the principal cause for the increase and prolongation of the difficulties and problems that face the Arab society."

In Jordan, there is the possibility to achieve improved health and well-being for people if sufficient strong political will exists, as has been clearly outlined in a working paper on "Human Development: children first." The opportunity to demonstrate "political will" to avert many of the 100 million children who will die from illness and malnutrition in the 1990's if present trends continue," was emphasised in Sarajini Abraham's paper, deputy regional director for the Middle East and North Africa United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Upon analysis of social effects of economic adjustment, several major factors should be taken into consideration as has been highlighted by Dr. Jawad Al Anani, former minister and economy analyst. Population in Jordan is high averaging 6.7 persons, of whom 4.7 are children. The fact that children constitute a heavy burden on the parents and bread winners is another major factor that Dr. Anani emphasised in his paper.

In the final session In'am Al Mufri also emphasised the fact that the Arab World is witnessing major social, economic, political and demographic transformation, a situation which "calls for enacting laws and statutes to cope with this overwhelming sweep towards change."

Other challenge which faces the children, as has been emphasised later in Mufri's paper, is the gaps in socio-economic development that directly affect the life of children "such as disparities in developmental opportunities among the Arab countries and within the same country, with respect to the distribution of services between the urban and rural areas and between men and women as well as the

imbalance between resources and population growth in some Arab countries.

Giving the children the priority they deserve in the development plans and general budgets, and improving the quality of life for children were the main issues stressed by Mufri. The issues include the reduction of child-mortality (children aged under five) by one third by the year 2000 and total eradication of polio.

In the field of education she emphasised the importance of reducing the rate of adult illiteracy as well as improving and diversifying the quality of education. Other points were highlighted in legislation, cultural and social fields and the field of Arab cooperation.

One of the important preparations for a coordinated plan to deal with children's issues in Jordan is the ratification of the United Nations convention on the rights of the child: "I am very happy to declare that the Jordanian government three days ago has asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ratify the convention," emphasised Mufri.

An annual programme organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) which brings together talented children from throughout the Arab World for a week of cultural interaction in Jordan, will also be held this year, according to Mufri, NHF director. Among the Congress's activities it is intended to hold a children's summit during which the needs of Arab children will be discussed.

The recent Tunis meeting on Arab child's rights recommended the following: Endeavour to ratify the U.N. convention on the rights of the child before the World Summit for Children convenes. Call upon all Arab heads of state to attend the summit. Speed up the formulation of national programmes on child welfare, protection and development. Give childhood an advanced position within the Arab League's activities and promote joint Arab action in this regard. Call upon the Arab information services to raise awareness of the state of Arab children.

Discussions in the seminar focused upon the need to protect women's rights in order to protect the children's rights and the importance to change ways of raising up children, especially because "Parents tend to raise up their children the way they were raised up," has been pointed out by Dr. Fatimah S'oudi, a pediatrician.

Suggestions were also made to establish an Arab bank for children as well as an Arab UNICEF.

Crown Prince warns of a bleak future for Arab water, food and environment

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday warned of the dangers posed to the Arab Nation and Arab security by the lack of sufficient food and water resources, and urged strenuous efforts to deal with environmental pollution which is endangering all species.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day ministerial meeting by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Prince Hassan said that the participants confront two inter-related sensitive but dangerous issues to Arab security, namely water security and food security.

"Agriculture consumes a major part of fresh water resources, but this sector is not producing sufficient quantities of food for the Arab World," the Prince said.

"It is rather impossible for the Arabs to safeguard their national security and the Arab order when they continue to import more than half of their needs of cereals, sugar and cooking oil from unstable sources," Prince Hassan continued.

"Purchasing food needs means draining financial resources at the

expense of agricultural development programmes and investment projects of strategic dimension," said Prince Hassan.

"The Arab land, with its agricultural potentials, capital and technology should form a strong basis for an Arab world to achieve a brighter Arab future," the Prince added.

"Our relationship with the land should be very strong and we should properly and efficiently exploit our resources, employing the most up-to-date scientific methods and techniques without causing any damage to the environment and without tampering with the natural balance of all species and creatures," the Prince said.

Prince Hassan expressed the view that Arab agriculture is being impeded by unorthodox farming methods, pollution of earth, air and water and excessive use of pesticides which, in turn, tends to cause contamination of underground water resources.

Referring to the water situation, Prince Hassan said that the world was facing a real water crisis and nations around the world were organising awareness campaigns as part of a strategy to deal with this problem.

"Although 70 per cent of the earth's surface is covered with water, only three per cent is fresh and only one per cent of this proportion is being used by man," said the Prince.

He said that the Arab World was facing a grim water future, largely due to depletion of water resources in the four main rivers: the Euphrates, the Tigris, the Nile and the Yarmouk.

"This meeting is called on to come up with suitable proposals to develop these water resources and to suggest alternative solutions," the Prince said. "We have to plan for ourselves rather than let others plan for us," he warned.

To make matters worse, the Prince added, Israel, which continues to occupy Arab lands, is pursuing its aggression by trying to control Arab water resources.

"Israel is stealing Arab water at this difficult time when the Arabs are facing water scarcity, but the Arabs are exercising self-restraint and prefer to deal with the situation at the diplomatic level," Prince Hassan pointed out.

Prince Hassan welcomed a suggestion of setting up a higher Arab water council to deal with

the growing water crisis and to serve as a tool for joint Arab action.

"Despite individual Arab countries' endeavours to ensure food security," Prince Hassan continued, "the Arab world is still facing a growing food bill and increased food consumption due to the growing population."

He said that Arab food production falls far short of meeting the consumption and the problem is being aggravated by the continuous population growth.

The Prince urged Arab countries to store food supplies for the future and help protect the environment. He said that Arab countries should face the creation of world economic blocs with sensible action and should end inter-Arab differences and seek sound measures for integration and closer cooperation.

Prince Hassan noted that through a strong political will and proper scientific and technological methods Arab states can deal with the agricultural problems with a greater confidence and can eventually ensure food security which is a significant component of the Arab Nation's security providing a guarantee for the Arab order.

Conference debates economic ways to protect needy children

By Nar Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The needs of the young, a top priority and a genuine concern to world leaders, will be further debated in the coming world summit for children in September in New York. Many critical issues will be covered: health, education and nutrition, all falling under the category of survival. One of the topics on the agenda is the economic aspect of restructuring.

This was also a topic of discussion in a one-day conference for the protection of the children held in Amman on Saturday July 28. Andrea Cornea, an Italian economic advisor who is working with UNICEF and also a co-author of a book entitled "Adjustment with a Human Face" published in 1987, presented a paper dealing with a recommendation on how to form an economic strategy that would protect the needy children in the best way.

"For the past ten years, there has been an economic stagnation in the Latin American countries and in Africa while the Middle Eastern region has been affected by a slowdown," he said. According to Cornea, the world witnessed a polarisation period in the 1980's and while the West experienced a recession between 1982 and 1985, it is now growing steadily leaving the Latin American, African and to some extent the Middle East in stagnation. "In Africa, for example, there are clear signs showing deterioration. There

are fewer children that survive and fewer children enrolled in school," Cornea points out. In Nigeria, school enrollment declined from 14 million in 1982 to 12 million in 1986.

Cornea has noted that the economic recession of 1982 has affected the developing world in that it has brought out in the open the third world's weak points. "There are four ways in which the recession period has disturbed these countries," says Cornea. First of all, there was a decline in commodity prices followed by a decline in trade which resulted in financial famine. And then interest rate grew.

UNICEF, under the socio-economic programme, came up with a recommendation that would contribute to benefiting the people in need especially children and women. Through an income support programme, "we can expand services that are useful like health, immunisation, education." Cornea adds that although one side will suffer through this programme the poor people and the most vulnerable will benefit. Such controls as immunisation, combating diarrhoea and sanitation can be carried out at a low cost and so "you get protection of the poor in a cost-effective way."

Public expenditure and public works is another measure that could be looked into, Cornea asserts. By distributing public expenditure the low income group will be the beneficiaries. Retraining programmes could be created, whereby small programmes would allow

for ways and means of developing awareness in order to realise the importance of being self-sufficient and to encourage people to work in order to survive.

Another feasible method of adjustment, according to Cornea, is to cancel food subsidies and substitute it with food coupons and to save the vouchers for the poor. Another example can be taken from the medical drugs where every country has an essential list. Cornea maintains that there are branded products and unbranded products. Of course the unbranded products would be considerably cheaper. "So why not have an essential list of unbranded pharmaceuticals? This would allow for 90 per cent or more of the resources to be saved." He admits that the intermediary between the pharmaceuticals and the beneficiaries would lose out but "we have to take into account that the target groups are the low income people." Statistics show an alarming figure of over one billion people worldwide living below the poverty line.

Apparently, this issue has been under debate between UNICEF and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and even though every country has its own way of economically adjusting its policies, the general idea can be applied by most countries, says Cornea. This proposal will be taken to the world summit for children. In connection with Jordan, there is room for manoeuvre, much greater than Africa, says

Cornea, where they are forced to import goods and export few items that are not much needed in other countries because Africa does not have the resources, technology or manpower.

Dr. Jawad Anani, an economic consultant, referring to Cornea's recommendation says that in a way it could apply to Jordan. "When he talked about increasing exports and decreasing imports and relaxing prices, the programme could very well apply." Even though the degree of awareness in Jordan is high "I believe we should exert more effort and bring it to attention of both the Parliament and the government to allocate more funds and create a national effort. All you need is a good organisation and effort," says Anani.

The current nature of Jordan's economic adjustment is favouring the rich over the poor and "with the high family size of Jordan the number of children who stand to suffer in the future will become greater," Anani affirms. There is a need to develop a social package of adjustment and to secure financial support. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan is developing such a programme in terms of health for children, calorie intake, price of medicine, food and other social basic items. "We have to strike some sort of balance between economic and social restructuring, otherwise no economic success can actually be substantiated or appreciated if we have more social problems," says Anani.

Jordan, Libya to cooperate in scientific, medical research

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben left for Tripoli, Libya, Saturday on a mission largely designed to secure the employment of Jordanian doctors and specialists in Libyan health centres and hospitals.

Zaben, who leads an official health delegation, is expected to spend a week in Libya holding talks with his Libyan counterpart Mustafa Al Za'idi and touring health centres, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The delegation will hold talks on bilateral cooperation in health fields and pharmaceutical industries as well as training medical staff, Petra said.

Talks will focus mainly on the prospect of employing more Jordanian doctors and specialists in Libya, according to Ministry of Health officials.

Libya already employs 70 Jordanian doctors under the terms of a 1988 agreement. The two sides will also discuss cooperation in scientific and medical research and participation in medical conferences.

Exchange of laws, regulations and expertise pertaining to medical education and practice will also be reviewed by the two sides, according to Petra. Zaben's departure coincided with a report that the Ministry of

Health has found jobs for 150 Jordanian doctors in the Kingdom since the start of 1989. A report in Al Ra'i daily said that Zaben had asked the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which arrange for the employment of citizens in government departments, to take steps for the appointment of 20 general practitioners in health centres operated by the Health Ministry in a number of regions.

The report said that 52 other doctors, earlier appointed by the ministry, have now declined to take up the jobs due to the fact that the work place was far off from their homes, in remote regions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

* Plastic art exhibition by Radana and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.

* Exhibition of paintings by ten Israeli artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.

* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

* Exhibition entitled "The United Arab Emirates — Past and Present" displaying UAE national heritage and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.

* Exhibition of paintings by Iyad Al Masri at Yarmouk University.

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Abdoun Supermarket (Abdoun)
Green Valley Supermarket (Um Utheina)

FUNERAL SERVICE

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Those who wish may join for the burial service at the cemetery immediately after.

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Let us not rock the boat

IT IS rare that any country can switch overnight to a different economic course and still manage to hold steady. Well, in our case here in Jordan, judging from Finance Minister Basel Jarad's assessment of the Kingdom's economic performance over the past six months, the course has indeed been switched and the country is holding steady. The currency has stabilised, though after having depreciated heavily, and the best evidence of the gradual process of restoring confidence in the economy is in the increase in expatriate remittances. Furthermore, exports are rising, imports are on a downward course, construction and agriculture are showing an upward turn after registering shocking depression in 1989, and the country's foreign exchange reserves are healthy.

Overall, the picture that emerges is very encouraging. One could even go to the extent of asserting that the Jordanian economy has gone quite a distance on the road to sound recovery. That is not to say that the job has been done; if anything, it has just been started. Sound planning and careful, practical steps coupled with Arab assistance in 1989 and 1988 have to be seen as the prime factors that worked in the Kingdom's favour.

Having said that, let us not overlook the fact that we are only holding steady and the trek is strewn with thorns. What with the political equilibrium wobbling with the uneasy calm on the Arab-Israeli front further exacerbated with the massive wave of immigrants to Israel threatening Jordan with another exodus from the West Bank?

For all practical and technical purposes, the capability is there, and we have to exert every effort to maintain the present sound economic course and restore strength to the national economy. Otherwise we would still be singing a different tune now, more than one and a half years after the man in the street was shocked by the news that the country owed a massive foreign debt and people's income had been reduced by over 50 per cent, literally overnight.

Over and above everything else, what characterises the Jordanian scene today is the realisation that there is no sense anymore in blaming everything on the past. The feeling appears to have set in that there are certain realities in our situation and we have to face up to it. We have crossed the highest point in our economic crisis, and although it will not be all smooth sailing from here, the density of the waves is not that strong to capsize the boat, unless of course some of us rock the boat from within. That's where the responsibility of all of us, citizens, officials, and elected representatives, comes in. Instead of throwing recriminations and accusations around, we should understand and accept the fact that our country can do better without having to fight an internal conflict, and that even with hard work it will still take some time to recover.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Amman and Cairo are coming together again for discussion on further steps to bolster their bilateral cooperation and serve pan-Arab causes, said Al Ba'i Arabic daily Saturday. With reference to the meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Joint Committee which opens here Saturday, the paper said that the two sides will of course review progress in the implementation of past resolutions and recommendations, will discuss achievements of joint ventures and will explore further prospects for future cooperation in energy, information, social affairs, health, telecommunications and transport, said the paper. This close and serious way of discussion the paper noted, is a firm step towards integration; and the implementation of joint projects can be best described as brotherly cooperation designed to strengthen the Arab World's stand, the paper added. Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation has contributed in many ways and forms to the process of enhancing Arab solidarity because this close relationship is based on mutual understanding and confidence, it said. Both Amman and Cairo which open meetings in Amman realise too well the immense challenges and the looming dangers in the Arab region, and the two sides, the paper said, are determined through their joint efforts to translate their constructive ideas and plans into practice to serve national goals.

Al Dastour daily criticised the United States for its decision to impose economic sanctions on Iraq as a manifestation of Washington's hostile attitude towards the Arab nation and its interests. The decision taken by the U.S. Congress is another link of a long chain of hostile actions taken by the U.S. administration against the Arab nation and a flagrant defiance of the Arab countries' aspirations, said the paper. Strange enough this decision was taken as the Arabs announced that the Iraq-Kuwait dispute over oil is about to be settled after all, and can only indicate that the United States is totally dissatisfied with the turn of events, and had wished to see a confrontation in the Gulf, the paper continued. It should be noted therefore, said the paper, that the enemy of the Arab World is not world Zionism alone, but rather the United States also which is openly striving to prove that it is fighting on the side of the Israelis against the Arab states.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Arab people are gratified to see Kuwait and Iraq settling their dispute in a brotherly manner and that the dark cloud that marred inter-Arab relations is now drifting away for good. The paper paid tribute to the Arab mediation efforts which helped to defuse tension and paved the way for the Jeddah meeting which, it said, would display brotherly affection and determination to reach a lasting settlement for this problem. What is expected from the Arab leaders now is to see to it that all forms of differences between Baghdad and Kuwait are terminated for ever so that all attempts by the United States to intervene and fish in muddy waters can be thwarted, said the paper.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

IMF correction programme in the balance

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

THE Jordanian economic correction programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was formally adopted by the Government in mid April 1989. Therefore the year 1989 was not exactly the first year of the programme, as only eight and half months were covered by the new policies and measures. Yet the results were impressive in most areas, and disappointing in others, but overall, the success was much greater than anticipated. The restored stability embarrassed the opponents of the programme, especially in view of their complete failure to come up with a viable alternative that could secure the rescheduling of the country's heavy external debts.

In this article we shall try to use the economic and monet-

ary indicators to measure the degree of success and failure in various areas of the economy, especially in the fundamentals. Imports were \$2,716 million in 1988. The programme aimed at reducing imports by 3.8 per cent to \$2,612 million. Actual imports in 1989 were \$2,383 million, a reduction of 12.3 per cent.

Exports, on the other hand, were \$1,016 million in 1988. The programme aimed at increasing exports by a moderate 6.4 per cent to become \$1,081 million. Actual exports reached \$1,118 million, a growth of 10.0 per cent. Again the performance was able to beat the target.

Thus the deficit in the trade balance (commodities) was reduced to \$1,265 million, in-

stead of the target of \$1,530 million. This compares to a deficit of \$1,700 million in 1988.

On the side of the services, the economy did not perform well. The net position of the services sector was a surplus of \$800 million in 1988. The programme aimed at raising the surplus to \$905 million in 1989. However, the actual net surplus in the balance of services was as low as \$555 million. Nevertheless, the overall balance of goods and services combined remained on the positive side. Instead of the net deficit of \$900 million in 1988, the actual deficit became \$710 million in 1989 but that was short of the target of \$625 million.

Remittance from expatriates

in 1989 were the major disappointment. Against \$894 million in 1988, only \$624 million was actually received. The programme predicted receipt of \$876 million. This shortfall was responsible for the weakness in the services sector in general. Apparently, the programme did not take into account that the restoration of the confidence of expatriates takes time to rebuild.

As far as grants to the Treasury were concerned, Jordan managed to receive \$621 million from all Arab and foreign sources compared to \$550 million in 1988, and against the programme's prediction of \$483 million.

Reserves of foreign exchange held by the Central Bank showed an outstanding

performance. In 1988, the Central Bank lost \$488 million of its reserves. The programme thought that, the CBJ would lose an additional \$98 million during 1989. Instead, the reserves rose by \$306 million, quite an excellent result. Thus the CBJ reserves of foreign exchange, which were enough to cover the imports for half a month by the end of 1988, became sufficient to cover two to three months by the end of 1989, more than double the period targeted by the programme which was one month.

Overall, the deficit in the current account, which is considered the most comprehensive indicator of economic performance and adjustment, was reduced from \$289 million in 1988 to only \$60 million in

1989, much better than the target of \$106 million tolerated by the programme.

The deficit in the current account as a percentage of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) has improved from 5.0 per cent in 1988, to 1.3 per cent only in 1989. The programme was aiming at 2.2 per cent.

The political opponents of the correction programme claimed that the conditions were too tough, and that the Jordanian people would be squeezed in order to repay the creditors. The actual results of the first year indicated that the Jordanian people exceeded expectations and beat the ambitious targets, and that Jordan was a net receiver of funds from the creditors to the extent of \$375 million.

Iraq demands higher oil prices, OPEC responds

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

GENEVA — A resurgent Iraq has thrust higher world oil prices to the top of OPEC's agenda, with the help of its military might and an alliance with its former war foe Iran.

A historic accord reached on Friday boosted the group's minimum reference price for the first time in 10 years, to \$21 a barrel from \$18, and set what oil ministers said were unprecedented controls on output. Iraq's hawkish initial demands for oil prices of at least \$25 and its threats before the meeting against Gulf Arab producers which had been exceeding their output quotas, were decisive, delegates and oil traders said.

This could yield political dividends for Iraq in forthcoming talks with fellow OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) members Kuwait and Iran to settle long-standing financial and territorial disputes, they said.

"It was Iraq's grandstanding that brought up the whole issue of raising the reference price to begin with," said Michael Rothman, a vice-president with Merrill Lynch.

The \$21 price was less than Iraq wanted but far exceeded what seemed possible only weeks ago.

Iraqi militancy was a major factor in prodding Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer and long an advocate of moderate oil prices, into accepting the price rise, the sources added.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab producers, expressed

satisfaction with the accord as did Iran, traditional leader of the price hawk camp.

"Saudi Arabia needs money as badly as anyone else," said one Western oil company executive familiar with the Kingdom.

The accord suggests an unprecedented identity of interests among OPEC's biggest oil producers, with potential political consequences for the region.

The delegates and traders said Iraq may have strengthened its hand in its disputes with Kuwait, which flared into crisis last week. Western diplomats said Iraq moved troops onto the Kuwaiti border, although Iraq denied any aggressive designs.

By conceding its original demand for \$25 oil, Baghdad may be able to extract new concessions from Kuwait, a traditional advocate of low prices and high output. Iraq and Kuwait are due to hold talks in Saudi Arabia at the weekend.

Desperate for cash to rebuild its economy after the eight-year war with Iran that ended in 1988, Iraq wants \$2.4 billion from Kuwait as compensation for what it says is Kuwait's exploitation of Iraqi oilfields on their disputed border.

Iraq says it has also lost revenue because of the slump in world oil prices to as low as \$14 a barrel last month, largely because of overproduction by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Already billions of dollars in debt to Western banks and unable to borrow much more, Iraq felt only higher oil prices

and help from its Gulf neighbours could save it from a financial crunch.

By leading the fight for higher prices — Iran's traditional role — Iraq may have also won points in projected peace talks with Tehran aimed at settling the border dispute over the Shatt Al-Arab waterway that triggered the war between them.

Iranian president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Friday key producers should cooperate to drive oil prices to \$30 a barrel. He mentioned Iraq, Algeria, Libya and the Soviet Union, which is not an OPEC member but is the world's biggest producer.

Iraqi oil minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al-Chalabi denied on Friday Iraq would play the role of OPEC policeman to ensure Kuwait and the UAE keep their pledges to produce no more than 1.5 million barrels per day each.

"We don't want to act as policemen, we just want to do our share of the responsibility," he said.

Delegates and oil traders said the UAE and Kuwait would think twice about violating their quotas again. Iraq has the Arab world's biggest and most battle-hardened army.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto told journalists in Geneva Western countries need not fear that the group would drive prices too high, in a repeat of the 1970s oil crisis.

"Although we are in position to get higher market share, we will not misuse the opportunity by pushing prices too high because it won't benefit anyone," he said.

Afghans still praying for peace

While the world has watched and mostly applauded the rapidly unfolding events in Eastern Europe, one of the past decade's most tragic and intractable conflicts — the 11-year-old war in Afghanistan — continues to defy solution.

The human cost of the war has been underlined by the disclosure in a recent survey that since 1979, 3.7 million Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan alone. Only a handful have so far been able to return home and the vast majority remain in more than 200 camps, while new refugees continue to cross the frontier in search of safety.

But 18 months after the departure of Soviet troops there are hopes that the outline of a political settlement may emerge from current discussions between the two super-powers, aided by the good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

According to an aide of Soviet President Gorbachev, Moscow and Washington have "agreed to a very considerable degree" on the question of a transitional authority for Afghanistan while free elections are held.

The main stumbling block now is the role of Mohammad Najibullah, head of the present People's Democratic (Communist) Party administration in Kabul.

For the Afghan opposition parties and the Mujahideen it is unacceptable that Najibullah — former head of the regime's secret police — should remain in control during elections to choose a new government.

Najibullah has claimed that the PDP is willing in principle to give up its monopoly of power, and even operation as a non-Communist Party in a future multi-party system.

But observers note that the series of political moves which Najibullah began in March have

remained strictly within the limits of his original, and unsuccessful, "national reconciliation" programme. Launched in 1986, this campaign was plainly aimed at keeping power in the hands of the PDP leadership.

Thus the appointment of a non-party figure, Fazl Haq Khalilqiyar, as prime minister on May 6 seemed to suggest that a first step was being taken towards a more broadly-based coalition that might serve as an interim government while elections were organised.

But Khalilqiyar, previously Governor of Herat and a first deputy finance minister, has a long record of loyal service to the regime. His appointment inevitably recalls that of the ill-fated Hassan Sharq in May, 1988.

Sharq, too, was supposedly non-party, but he was widely regarded as a "closet" PDP member. He was dismissed from the premiership in February, 1989, when his failure to establish a credible independent role and his popular support had become obvious. Indeed, any genuinely independent authorities for the office of Prime Minister was hardly possible while the 1987 constitution ensured that Najibullah remained an executive president with a firm hold on policy-making.

The prospects for Khalilqiyar appear little better, since the amendments to the constitution approved by the Loya Jirga, or grand national council, organised by the regime in May, have left the executive presidency and its power intact.

Khalilqiyar's Cabinet appointments similarly belie Najibullah's claims to be working towards a genuine multi-party democracy.

Although 13 of the new ministers are ostensibly non-party technocrats, the key portfolios of defence, interior, foreign affairs and state department remain firmly in PDP hands.

At the Party's second congress last month, Najibullah insisted that the holding of elections would involve the acceptance by other "political forces" of the basic ideas of the "national reconciliation" policy, and that only the PDP represented all of Afghanistan's social classes and ethnic groups.

But his efforts to change the party's image, including "renaming" it the Homeland Party, have plainly not won it greater credibility with most Afghans.

Like its predecessor in 1988, the recent Loya Jirga was "attended" to demonstrate national-wide backing for the regime. But it attracted no support from significant opposition figures or groups, even though Soviet troops have now left the country, and most of the 772 delegates already had close links with the regime through official or party affiliations.

Most Afghans cannot forget that the PDP regime owes its present hold on power to the Soviet invasion in 1979, and that it continues to depend on Moscow's military and economic support. Soviet transport planes were recently making 25 flights a day into Kabul airport, in addition to the massive supplies being taken in by road.

But with a stalemate in the fighting and growing international agreement that the war can only be ended through a political settlement based on free elections, time would appear to be running out for Najibullah and the discredited PDP. — Lion Features.

Asylum dispute threatens diplomatic channel to Castro

By Keith Grant
Reuters

MADRID — A vital diplomatic channel linking Communist Cuba and the West is threatened by a continuing row between Fidel Castro's government and Madrid over a group of asylum-seeking Cubans holed up in the Spanish embassy in Havana.

Castro has refused to grant free passage out of Cuba to the 18 people sheltering in the embassy and Spain has withdrawn its ambassador to Havana in response to a Cuban statement describing the Spanish foreign minister as ignorant.

Ambassador Antonio Serrano De Haro, who has insisted on Spain's right to grant asylum, made no statement when he arrived in Madrid this week, but a foreign ministry official said: "It's clear this is the most serious conflict we have had with Cuba in recent times."

Serrano, accused by the Cuban authorities of acting like a "pained colonial administrator," was due to meet Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, butt of last week's verbal attack by the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

At the weekend Madrid sent five ore agents of a crack police squad to beef up security at the Havana embassy after nine Cubans broke into the building early on Friday to join nine others already sheltering there.

In addition to recalling its ambassador, Spain has frozen aid and won agreement from the European Community to suspend cooperation between the 12-nation group and Cuba.

But diplomatic sources said the confrontation effectively torpedoes recent efforts by Spanish

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to try and steer Castro towards the democratic reforms undertaken by Eastern Bloc countries.

"With this latest incident it is unthinkable now that there could be any high-level meetings for some time to come," one European diplomat said.

Gonzalez last met Castro in April at the inauguration of Brazil's President Fernando Collor De Mello and told him Cuba must reform if it was to avoid serious social tensions.

The initiative, which diplomatic sources said was a first step toward mediation in the 30-year-old impasse between Cuba and the United States, made little headway although Gonzalez was optimistic at the time.

"I have the impression Castro will respect the intentions behind this dialogue and will reflect on what he told him that day," Gonzalez said last month, stressing the importance of not isolating Cuba.

Diplomats noted that while Spain may for now have lost a means of influencing Cuba, Castro himself risks losing what is probably his best friend in Europe.

Spain is one of the few Western nations to have maintained largely cordial relations since Castro took power in 1959, and the Caribbean island is one of its main aid beneficiaries.

The only incident was in the early 1960s when Ambassador Juan Pablo De Lojendio, enraged at some critical references by Castro during one of his long televised speeches, burst in on Cuban state television studios and tried to interrupt him.

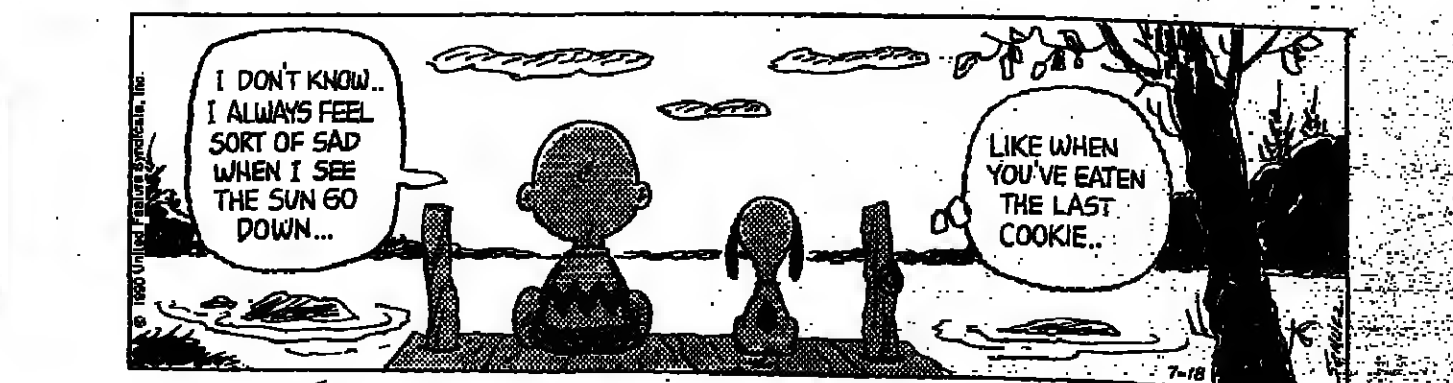
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Peanuts



Sounding the alarm over education

By Clare Pedrick

PARIS—Education has reached a crisis point in much of the developing world with plummeting enrolment figures, drastic shortages of teachers and a dearth of the most basic materials, including textbooks, desks and blackboards.

Sounding the alarm, United Nations education experts say strides made over the past decades have been wiped out in the space of just a few years. Nearly 1 billion people are illiterate with 98 per cent of them in the developing world, according to studies by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). More than 100 million children have no access to basic education in writing, reading and numeracy. Predictions are that if present trends continue, the number of 6- to 11-year-olds not in school will double to 200 million by the year 2000.

Misguided planning, outmoded systems, but most of all a desperate lack of cash are to be blamed for the crisis, UNESCO officials say. Debt is a major contributing factor and alarmingly, low-in-

come countries obliged to implement austerity programmes have invariably chosen the education and public health sectors as the first targets for cut-backs.

"Education in the developing world is crumbling," said Dieter Berstecher who has been with UNESCO's education sector for 18 years. "We are talking about the availability of basic teaching aids, books, pencils — the cuts and bolts are all at rock bottom," added the West German-born expert who spent many years in Thailand and India.

"In a lot of countries, teachers are being paid less than they were a year ago. In some, they are not being paid at all, especially in places where the inflation factor is significant such as Bolivia, Peru and other Latin American countries."

In certain countries where the education authorities are no longer able to pay salaries, much needed teachers are being laid off. In Zaire, for example, 46,000 teachers — 20 per cent of the nation's total — were fired in one go. Acting on a call to reduce its foreign debt by \$300 million, Jamaica laid off 11,000 public

sector workers, including 2,500 primary and secondary school teachers. In the capital of Kingston alone, 12 schools were forced to shut down. In other parts of the world, schools that are not shut down remain open only on a part-time basis as teachers are obliged to take on second and third jobs to earn a living.

Primary education has been hit the hardest, say experts. "This is the most vulnerable area because it is not protected by vested interests," said Berstecher. "People who go to primary schools are not of voting age and are not able to organise demonstrations. Often they are not well off and live in remote rural areas."

UNESCO figures show that 100 children can be put through primary school for the same price as educating one university student. Nevertheless, many governments channel scant education funds into the higher sector, where results are more easily visible.

In a bid to reverse the trend, and with the aim of providing basic education for all by the year 2000, UNESCO has joined three other U.N. agencies and relief

organisations worldwide to launch the first-ever global education programme. At a recent conference in Jomtien, Thailand, the U.N.'s children's fund UNICEF, UNESCO, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank pledged to increase efforts and funds for education. The World Bank promised to up allocations to primary education from \$750 million to \$1.5 billion over a three-year period. UNESCO announced it would make literacy a top priority and recommended an immediate 15 per cent increase of its resources spent on basic education.

Ministers from 150 countries and representatives from organisations such as Oxfam and Save the Children attending the conference heard that an estimated \$50 billion will be needed to achieve the goal of providing universal primary education by the year 2000. Added to U.N. funds, 18 other groups will sponsor the programme, including the Islamic Educational Organisation, as well as individual governments and private foundations. However, say conference orga-

nisers, the bulk of the cash will have to come from the developing countries themselves.

Among the recommendations to emerge from the meeting is a re-allocation of resources from higher to basic education. Another was a call for a drastic reduction in arms spending, which currently totals some \$145 billion per year in the developing world. Education-for-debt swaps were urged to allow low-income nations to free themselves of part of the burden of their foreign debts in exchange for promises of a greater commitment to education.

Education experts generally agree that offering financial incentives is likely to prove more effective than trying to prod consciences. With this in mind, World Bank officials have produced the results of a study which reveals that investment in education leads to higher economic productivity, longer life expectancy, lower birth rate and decreased infant and maternal mortality.

"In any case, primary education is a human right," affirms Berstecher, a former member of the Educational Research Institute in Berlin and one of the main organisers of the Jomtien conference.

Citing the example of the small Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan which he visited recently, he pointed to some of the difficulties facing many other developing nations. "Many of the outlying schools can only be reached on foot and they have a very hard time attracting teachers and convincing them to stay. There are often few teaching aids or books," he said. "The children have to walk for several hours to get to school and their absence is a sacrifice for the families who need the boys, and especially the girls, to help with household chores, work in the fields, look after the herds and take care of younger brothers and sisters. As a result, the children stay for one or two years and then drop out. They soon lapse back into the level they were at before they ever went to school."

As is the case in Bhutan, girls are the first to suffer from a general fall in education standards, and U.N. officials have made women the prime targets of



Packing the most basic tools to learn, these young Nepalese are among millions of children condemned to illiteracy.

the education campaign. "Literacy of women is the most important single factor in the reduction of mortality of children," said James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF. "The children of more educated mothers have a greater chance of survival and of healthy growth than those of the less educated or illiterate."

Women account for two thirds of the world's illiterates, U.N. statistics show. Fewer than 40 per cent of women in most of Asia and Africa can read or write. Women in rural areas are even worse off. In Nepal, for example, up to 92 per cent of the female population is illiterate, in Yemen the figure is 97 per cent, while in Egypt it is 87 per cent.

"If you are a girl, you live in a rural area and your parents are poor, the statistical likelihood of your ever setting foot in a school is almost zero," said Berstecher.

In a bid to halt falling enrolment rates in general, and those of female pupils in particular, U.N. education experts are trying to encourage primary education programmes that are tailored to suit the specific lifestyle and culture of a given area. One of the

projects held up as an example is a programme run by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee in 2,500 schools, targeted at eight to ten-year-olds who have never had the chance to obtain a basic education. Hours are varied to fit in with the children's other commitments, at home or in the fields. In addition, a high ratio — more than seven times the national average — of female teachers have been taken on, leading to an equally high number of girls enrolling.

In India, a project code-named "Operation Blackboard" has assigned two teachers to every primary school in the area covered by the programme, no matter how small or remote. One of the teachers is always a woman and again, the number of parents sending their daughters to school has risen dramatically.

Despite the glaring lack of pencils, textbooks and other basics, modern technology should not be overlooked, say education experts. Television, radio, videos and computers can be important teaching aids in the developing world. "It's one of the few commodities that are actually coming

down in price and it can be used at very little cost," said Berstecher of such technology. In China, for example, 179,000 students graduated from the country's 577 "TV Universities" in 1987. That year in Thailand more than 100,000 first to third graders learned math through radio, at a cost of U.S. 45 cents per pupil.

Sadly, not even programmes such as these can help the hundreds of thousands of children in the world whose education, and indeed entire lives, are disrupted by civil war and strife. In 1989, 36,000 Palestinian students in primary and secondary education lost nearly a year of studies when the Israeli authorities in the Israeli occupied West Bank ordered 90 out of 98 schools closed. Higher education centres in the West Bank and Gaza remained closed for the second year running in 1989 by military order.

In June last year, war in Mozambique forced the closure of 599 or 35 per cent of the schools in the Nampula province. The education of some 36,000 children was disrupted while 75 teachers were killed and six were abducted — World News Link.



In many developing countries young girls stay home to work instead of going to school, which leads to high illiteracy rates among women.

Terror reigns in India's breadbasket

By John Poulter
The Associated Press

AMRITSAR, India — Kartar Singh has a recurring nightmare. He's driving home from his machine tool factory. Sikh militants in turbans of iridescent orange surround his car and police are too frightened to help. "I see the nozzles of the guns and they fire and everything goes red," he said.

These days in Punjab, Singh's nightmare is often a reality, and being a Sikh does not exempt him from the terror.

Sikh militants have killed about 1,400 people so far this year in their fight for a separate nation called Khalistan, or land of the pure. Security forces have killed nearly 250 of the extremists and some innocent bystanders.

Government officials fear 1990 will be the deadliest year since the separatist violence began nine years ago. A seemingly endless spiral of harsh police crackdowns, rising crime, unemployment and the introduction of advanced weapons by the militants has thrown this rich agricultural state into chaos.

The increasing violence threatens the position of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, who has partially staked his prestige on being able to solve the problem. Punjab's geography adds complications. It adjoins both Pakistan, India's long-time antagonist, and Jammu-Kashmir state, where a movement within the state's Muslim majority seeks independence from India.

Sikh militants in Punjab are believed to be one source of weapons for Kashmir's separatists, and India has accused Pakistan of providing arms and training to rebels in both states. Pakistan denies it.

"We are facing a war," said Narinderpal Singh, police chief of Punjab's Tarn Taran district. "It seems like it will go on forever." Singh, which means lion, is part of every Sikh name, but also has become a common surname for Hindus. Prime Minister Singh

is a Hindu.

The fields of Punjab are green and lined with trees. The northwestern state is India's breadbasket, producing 60 per cent of the country's rice and wheat.

But amid the lush countryside, terror abounds. Hindus, once the main target of Sikh militants, have abandoned dozens of villages around the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, an agricultural centre 250 miles (400 kilometres) northwest of New Delhi.

Fellow Sikhs like Kartar Singh now bear the brunt of the separatist wrath.

"They either say we're police informants or we don't love Khalistan enough," he said.

In Tarn Taran, 121 of the 137 civilians killed so far this year were Sikhs.

"Even a barking dog makes me afraid now," said Gurmit Kaur, a 20-year-old Sikh woman in Harikote village, 48 kilometres south of Amritsar. "Everything sounds like gunshots."

Last April, Ms. Kaur watched as militants dragged her father from their farmhouse and killed him. They accused him of being a police informer.

Yet no one turns to the government for help.

Police and other security forces have been blamed for hundreds of deaths. Officials acknowledge security forces have tortured Sikh prisoners and killed suspected militants in "fake encounters."

"We are stopping that now," Virendra Verma, governor of Punjab, said in an interview. "We are trying to win back the hearts of the people."

Verma recently announced creation of 10,000 police and paramilitary jobs for unemployed Sikhs. Critics say the programme will help the militants by giving thousands of Sikhs access to weapons.

Many Punjabis say police brutality continues.

In Rajchauck village, one kilometre from Pakistan, residents say police beat 20-year-old Baljit Singh to death in early June. After Singh was arrested,

villagers went to the police station to plea for his release, saying he was not a militant. The police said he had committed suicide.

Federal authorities recently set the national security guard, an anti-terrorist force known as the Black Cats, back into Punjab. The action appears destined to stir up more enmity, even among law enforcement officers.

The Black Cats, predominantly Hindu, generally have been used only in extreme situations, such as sieges to dislodge militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest shrine of Sikhism.

"Last year they came to our village and killed a bootlegger and two labourers, one of them... militants," said Jagdeep Singh, a Sikh police chief in Harikote village. "This year, they'll do worse."

Singh's attitude highlights a growing rift between Hindus and Sikhs in the state.

A decade ago, the two communities frequently intermarried and Hindu families adopted a tradition of raising one son as a Sikh. That tradition died as the ethnic conflict grew.

Sikhism began in the 15th century as an alternative to the rival Hindu and Muslim faiths, combining Hindu rituals with Islam's belief in one God.

It became a warrior faith after Muslim Moguls beheaded a Sikh prophet in the late 17th century. His son ordered all Sikh men to become soldiers of the faith and take the name Singh.

Sikh religious law requires men to wear a knife and prohibits them from cutting their hair or beards, which are considered signs of virility.

In 1981, Sikh radicals began the campaign for Khalistan to save what they described as their dying culture.

Militants attacked Hindus in Punjab, where about 60 per cent of the people are Sikhs. In India as a whole, Sikhs make up only 2 per cent of the 880 million people and Hindus are 82 per cent.

Separatists stored weapons in the Golden Temple. On June 3,

1984, the Indian army attacked the temple in "Operation Blue Star," which Sikhs say defiled the shrine. More than 1,200 people were killed, most of them Sikhs.

Six months later, two Sikh bodyguards assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Hindu mobs rampaged in northern India, killing more than 3,000 Sikhs.

In 1988, the government again besieged the Golden Temple, killing 46 people. Plainclothes security agents now patrol the grounds and armed guards search visitors.

Sikh militants fled to the Mandi, a snake-infested mixture of badlands and swamp at the confluence of the Satluj and Beas rivers, which run through the heart of Punjab.

Authorities say the area is impossible to patrol. "The only way to really beat the terrorists is to release lions into that swamp," said Ashok Kumar, who commands a company of the border security force responsible for the Mandi.

He said the Sikhs are the best-armed militants in India, with night vision devices, plastic explosives, automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and shoulder-launched rockets.

Separatists have stolen about \$1 million from Punjab banks in the past three months, according to police. They also have kidnapped hundreds of people for ransoms totaling another million, police said.

"India must accept Khalistan or there will be total anarchy," said Rajinder Singh Mehta, head of the Sikh Students Federation, one of about 10 Sikh militant groups.

Even farming, Punjab's lifeline, has come under attack.

Militants have killed 24 members of the Rice Millers Association this year, including 10 Sikhs, and held 100 for ransom, said Ashok Sachdeva, a Hindu who heads the association and seldom leaves his home in Amritsar.

"What is life if there is no freedom?" he asked. "All of us in Punjab are like caged birds."



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GOODWILL GAMES

U.S. basketball team reaches finals
Soviet women edge U.S. gymnasts for gold

SEATTLE (AP) — The U.S. Basketball team that lost to the Soviet Union has disappeared. There's a new version, one that looks quite similar, but this one is playing for the gold medal at the Goodwill Games.

The United States beat Brazil 112-95 Friday night, its second impressive victory since losing to the Soviets in the qualifying round Tuesday night.

"I'm a believer in losses not destroying a team, especially this one," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We've had three weeks of practice, and they're learning how to play with each other, and for me. We now have a group of eight or nine players and we have defined their roles."

The biggest definition has come on the defensive end, Todd Day has become the stopper.

The guard from Arkansas held Italy's Antonello Riva to 21 points, 13 below his average, in the victory that got the United States into the medal round. He followed with another great effort against Oscar Schmidt of Brazil in the win that got it into the gold medal game.

Schmidt was 13-for-29 from the field, 5-for-9 on 3-pointers.

Kenny Anderson led the United States with 25 points and Billy Owens added 22. Day had 16 points, eight rebounds, five assists and no turnovers.

The Soviet Union won the team handball gold medal, beating Yugoslavia 29-27 in overtime. In baseball, it was Cuba 11, Taiwan 1; Canada 6, Puerto Rico 4; and Japan 11, Mexico 4.

In Hockey, Canada defeated Finland 6-5, while Sweden beat Czechoslovakia 5-4. In wrestling, the Soviets and Americans won all their matches, but Chris Wilson, a late substitution on the Canadian team, stunned 149.5-pound (67.7-kilogramme) champion Arsen Fadzaev with a take-down with eight seconds to go.

The victory sent Wilson into the bronze medal match and eliminated Fadzaev from medal contention.

Fadzaev, a four-time World Champion and 1988 Olympic gold medalist, never had lost in the division.

The United States Basketball team took the lead for good against Brazil at 18-17 and made

it 58-45 at halftime. It stretched it to 25 points three times, the last at 102-77 with 6:35 to play.

"The United States deserved the victory because they forced Brazil out of its offense, and because of that we couldn't make baskets where we're used to making them," Brazil coach Helio Garcia said.

"The U.S. was able to hit their medium and long-distance shots, thus allowing the U.S. to play the type of game they wanted to play. The U.S. has all the components it takes to win."

Yugoslavia beat the Soviet Union 84-78 in the other semifinal. Meanwhile despite a fall from the uneven bars by world champion Svetlana Boguinskaya, the Soviet women won the team gold medal in gymnastics at the Goodwill Games Friday.

The Soviets, with Tatiana Lisenko and Natalia Kalinina picking up for Boguinskaya, collected 118,759 points.

The United States, led by tiny dynamo Kim Zmeskal, who had the top overall performance, were second with 118,484 points and China captured the bronze

with 117,573.

Romania, usually a powerhouse in the sport, kept their team at home at the last minute.

Boguinskaya earned 9.279 out of 10 for her uneven bar routine and her four-apparatus total ranked her only 10th among the 30 gymnasts.

The Soviet world champion's miscue occurred when she over-shot the upper bar while doing a reverse flip and dropped to the floor on both feet.

"I wasn't expecting it at all, naturally," she said through an interpreter.

"But there is nothing you can do about it. In this sport, you've got to learn to lose, too."

With only two gymnasts from each nation — 16 athletes in all — advancing to Saturday's all-around event, Soviet officials invoked a rule to replace Lisenko with Boguinskaya in the all-around despite Lisenko's higher score.

The rule states a country can replace a gymnast if one of their top two qualifiers "defaults for valid reasons."

Spain beats France to reach
Federation Cup semifinals

ATLANTA (R) — Spain reached the semifinals of the Federation Cup women's tennis tournament with singles victories Friday while the outcome of the Soviet-Dutch quarter-final hung on the doubles match.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, ranked seventh in the world, was taken deep into a first-set tiebreaker by 16th-ranked Nathalie Tauziat, winning the tiebreaker 11-9 before settling down to take the second set 6-1.

That gave the second-seeded Spaniards an unbeatable 2-0 lead over the fifth-seeded French after Conchita Martinez, ranked 10th,

had beaten 33rd-rated Julie Halard 6-0, 6-3.

Meanwhile the Dutch, who knocked out eighth-seeded West Germany Thursday and who are the only unseeded team remaining in the tournament, took a 1-0 lead over the fourth-seeded Soviet Union when hard-hitting Brenda Schultz pulled out a 6-7 (1-7) 6-4, 6-3 victory over Leila Meskhi in two hours, 15 minutes in the midday sun.

Schultz dropped the first two games of the final set before climbing back into the match by getting her booming serve on

target and improving her touch around the net.

The 50th-ranked Schultz took the last two points on the ace and an overhead winner at the net to score her first win in four meetings over Meskhi, who is 25 places ahead of her in the rankings.

The Soviet Union drew even when 12th-ranked Natalia Zvereva defeated Manon Bollegraf, ranked 29th, 6-1, 6-3.

Schultz and Bollegraf were to face Zvereva and Larisa Savchenko in the deciding doubles.

Big race
jockey
rides to
victory
at Ascot

ASCOT, England (R) — Big race jockey Michael Kinane landed another major success when Belmez won the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes Group One horse race by a neck Saturday.

Belmez, the only three-year-old in the 11-strong field, got the better of a stirring finish with stable companion Old Vic, ridden by Steve Cauthen.

Assatis, a 16-1 outsider ridden by 42-year-old Japanese jockey Masato Shibata, finished third, a length and a half behind Old Vic.

The result was a major triumph for trainer Henry Cecil and owner Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum, the connections of both Belmez, a 15-2 chance, and Old Vic (4-1).

Sheikh Mohammed, defence minister of Dubai, also had in the wings in the 12-furlong (2.4-kilometre) race but the French-trained colt, who started 3-1 favourite, could only finish fifth.

Kinane has had a golden spell since last October when he won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and a major two-year-old race in Ireland in the space of 24 hours.

He followed up this year with victories in the English 2,000 guineas and the Belmont stakes in the United States.

The Irishman was only confirmed as rider for Belmez Friday when Cecil decided Old Vic, a soft ground specialist, would take his chance on the fast going.

If Old Vic had been withdrawn the mount on Belmez would have gone to stable jockey Cauthen.

It was a remarkable comeback by the winner who had been retired in the spring after winning a race at Chester when he beat subsequent Epsom Derby winner Quest for Fame.

Belmez badly damaged a tendon but recovered so quickly he ran in the Irish Derby at the Curragh on July 1, finishing a respectable third to Salsabil.

Salsabil, the brilliant filly who has won three classics this year, was withdrawn from Saturday's race because of the fast ground.

Andries wins back WBC crown

MELBOURNE (R) — Britain's Dennis Andries grabbed the World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight crown for the third time Saturday when he knocked out Australian Jeff Harding in the seventh round of a bruising battle.

The 36-year-old Andries looked a tired and beaten man at the end of the sixth round against the much younger champion but came out in the seventh determined to throw everything he had at Harding in the next three minutes.

Harding, unbeaten in 17 fights

including two defences, looked rattled but still in command until a looping right from Andries caught him flush on the head after two minutes 15 seconds and put him on the canvas for the full count.

"Harding is a good champion but I'm a better one," said Andries, who fights out of Detroit. "You can hit me with rocks, you can hit me with sticks, you can hit me with stones, but I can take it and come back."

The fight at the National Tennis Centre was a tempered ver-

sion of the 12-round war in Atlantic City in June 1989 when Harding, who needed plastic surgery after that fight, took the title off Andries by dumping him on the floor twice in the final round.

Andries started well but Harding took over from the third round, picking the Briton off with a well-oiled left jab.

Two of the judges had Harding ahead when the fight was stopped, and the other had the two even on points.

Andries has now won 39 of his 47 fights.

De Leon loses WBC cruiser title
in disgrace after late punch

CAPO D'ORLANDO, Sicily (R) — Carlos de Leon of Puerto Rico lost his World Boxing Council (WBC) cruiser weight title in disgrace Friday when he was disqualified for punching Italian challenger Massimiliano Duran after the bell.

De Leon, who came to Sicily with a daunting 44 victories in a 16-year professional career, hit the relatively inexperienced Italian in the mouth after the bell for the 11th, penultimate round, sounded.

Shoes, cans, bottles and hundreds of sticks of spaghetti were flung into the ring by a furious partisan crowd and seconds later the WBC fight supervisor announced the 31-year-old cham-

pion was disqualified.

De Leon threw his late punch after earlier having pushed Duran to the canvas after landing a jab. The 26-year-old Italian was given a count but rose quickly to his feet, protesting in vain.

Duran, the son of retired Argentine middle-weight boxer Carlos Duran, went into the fight with only 15 professional bouts behind him.

But De Leon, who won the WBC cruiser weight title for the fourth time last January, was clearly off form and looked slow and heavy for much of the fight.

In a contest marked by holding and wild flailing punches, the Italian grew in confidence and by the seventh round he seemed to

be ahead on points.

De Leon tried to rouse himself in the 10th but his feared left jab rarely found its target and he resorted instead to body punches and the occasional head butt.

Duran cornered the Puerto Rican on the ropes in rounds four and six, and after being pushed to the canvas in the 11th, responded with a furious volley of punches.

After the referee separated the two at the bell, De Leon turned and lashed out at the Italian, hitting him in the mouth.

After hurried consultations with the fight judges, referee and the managers of the two boxers, the WBC supervisor disqualified De Leon and awarded the fight to Duran.

Senna on pole for West German Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Ayrton Senna turned final qualifying for Sunday's West German Grand Prix into a mundane practice session Saturday as he increased his record total of poles to 47 without attempting to improve his overnight time.

The 30-year-old Brazilian, driving a McLaren, decided before the session began that there was no need to better his time to retain pole and instead dedicated the entire afternoon period to work on setting up his car for the race.

His time, set Friday, of one minute and 40.198 seconds at an average speed of 244.208 kph kept him ahead of the Ferrari and the rest of the pack in pursuit of his third successive victory at the West German race.

While his premeditated plan offered little excitement for the fans, it could not be faulted tacti-

cally and Senna will share the front row of the grid with his McLaren team-mate Gerhard Berger of Austria.

Berger also failed to produce an improved time, but his time of 1:40.434 set Friday was enough to ensure that the front four positions on the grid remained unchanged from Friday's opening session.

Senna and Berger will share the front row with the two Ferraris of Frenchman Alain Prost and Briton Nigel Mansell behind them on the second row.

Prost failed to improve his time in the scorching heat, but Mansell managed a marginal improvement by three-tenths of a second to retain his place on the second row.

The two Williams of Italian Riccardo Patrese and Belgian Thierry Boutsen both improved their times to take fifth and sixth places on the grid.

The session, run in brilliant sunshine, was largely uneventful and drab by comparison with the incident-packed hour of action during qualifying Friday.

Frenchman Jean Alesi, the most sought-after young driver in Formula One, was among a dozen drivers unable to improve their times after suffering early problems when his Tyrrell stopped on the circuit.

Australian David Brabham lost a mirror on the main straight and suffered a wild spin in his Brabham as did Frenchman Philippe Alliot in his Ligier.

Senna said afterwards he felt confident the work he and the McLaren team had done during the afternoon would pay off in the race.

"We collected a lot of valuable information and I am sure it will be an advantage to us," he said.

Senna also predicted a very physically tough race, particularly if it remained hot, with car balance and tyre choice vital to the outcome.

"These will be critical things in the race and we have been able to learn a lot about race conditions today," he said.

Mansell, who was the only driver in the top four to improve his time, finished the day suffering from intermittent braking problems which the Ferrari team expect to rectify.

The problems caused him to spin during the morning free session when he went off at more than 250 kph but without any damage to car or driver.

"I am feeling pretty happy about our race set-up," he said as he looked forward to a likely close duel at the front between the two McLaren drivers and their Ferrari rivals.

W. Germany wins world
Dressage team title

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) West Germany's Dressage team, led by Nicole Uphoff, on Rembrandt, won its fifth straight world title at the World Equestrian Games.

Regarded as virtually invincible, the West German quartet's winning score was 4,389 points. The Soviet Union was second, 265 points behind. A half dozen nations had a two-day tussle for the bronze, which finally went to Switzerland.

In the vaulting, gymnastics on horseback, the United States became the first non-European team to win a medal by finishing third. Switzerland defended its 1988 world title ahead of West Germany.

The U.S. bronze medal winners were eight teenagers from the Timberline Vaulting Club in California, which was recently voted team of the year by the American Vaulting Association.

West Germany swept the individual competitions. Reigning champion Christoph Lenzing lost the men's title by a fraction of a point to Michael Lehner, the runnerup in 1988 who was second before Friday's freestyle final.

The difference was 9.379 points to 9.378. Third was Dietmar Otto, also from West Germany.

In the women's division, defending champion Silke Bernhard remained unbeaten, winning her fifth gold in a European or World Championship since 1986. Compatriots Silke Michelberger and Ute Schönlank took the silver and bronze medals.

The Swiss 1988 Olympic silver medalists took their place on the Dressage podium despite losing one of its top horses, Andiamo, to West Germany last year. Its anchor rider Christine Stuckelberger suffered a serious back injury last March that almost left her crippled.

"Last year at this time I didn't think I would ride again, even less compete," said the former Olympic champion, who added she was "very proud" to have come back at championship level.

Stuckelberger, aboard her stallion Ganguin de Lully, was second in the individual competition to qualify for Sunday's individual final. All top four individual finishers recently came back from serious injury or illness.

in themselves or their horses.

"I think this test was better than in the Seoul Olympics," said Uphoff, the Olympic and European champion who earned an exceptional 1,517 points.

Uphoff had lost three weeks of training from a fractured arm in June. Third-placed Kyra Kyzlink of Finland almost lost her crowdpleasing stallion Matador from a twisted gut last year. He came back to win in Copenhagen in May.

In fourth place were the former European champions from France, Margit Otto-Crepin on Corlandus.

The team contest will have no bearing on the individual competition Sunday. It only determined the top 18 qualifiers.

Meanwhile Belgium has asked Sweden if it can guarantee security for show jumper Evelyn Blaton at the World Equestrian Games.

Ulf Rosengren, secretary general of the Swedish Equestrian Federation, said Friday: "We received the query in writing. We have replied by saying our security is good, although we cannot give any guarantees."

Belgian Blaton was one of the riders on a controversial video showing former West German show jumper Paul Schockemoehle hitting horses' legs with sticks to make them jump higher, a practice known as "rapping."

Schockemoehle has resigned as a trainer and is selling his horses after an animal protection group accused him of cruelty to animals.

His pupil, Olympic gold medalist Franke Smoots, pulled out of the games out of solidarity with Schockemoehle, who has denied the charge.

Other riders associated with Schockemoehle intend to compete despite fears of demonstrations. "We cannot control the audience," Rosengren said.

The Belgian showjumpers arrived in Stockholm Friday without Blaton. It was not known when she would appear.

The West German team were expected next week in time for Tuesday's show jumping warm-up.

Chang beats Agassi while
McEnroe loses to Sampras

TORONTO (R) — Michael Chang hobbled off court with his 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 first win over Andre Agassi, and a nauseated John McEnroe lost to Pete Sampras 7-6, (7-4), 4-6, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the \$1.2 million Canadian Open tennis championships Friday.

The seventh-seeded Chang, fighting off cramps, outlasted the top-seeded Agassi in a two hour 10 minute duel in intense 104-degree Fahrenheit (40 Celsius) temperatures.

"I feel great," Chang said, two hours after the match, of his first victory over Agassi. "My mind feels great, but my body says where's the bed."

In Saturday's semifinal Chang will take on the fifth-seeded Sampras. The other semifinal pits fourth-seeded Jay Berger against unseeded Jakob Hlasek.

The Agassi-Chang match seemed headed for an instant replay of their four previous meetings, with the fourth-ranked

Agassi crippling Chang with every advance.

Although Chang did come up lame, it wasn't Agassi doing the dirty deed, but his own body. Chang's mental strength was tougher than his physique.

"It was way too late in the match for the cramps to make a difference," Agassi said. "If it was three-out-of-five, we would have had to dial 911 (the police emergency) for him."

Until 6-4, 5-4 with a break, Agassi was the stern taskmaster, grilling Chang mercilessly. Not only was Agassi, a known baseliner, beating Chang from the backcourt, his serve-and-volley game was winning points, too.

Chang, however, is a workhorse. Basically, he will stay out there until he drops.

After taking the second set, Chang went ahead 4-1 in the third. Agassi broke back in the seventh game when Chang sailed a backhand crosscourt wide.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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FROM VIENNA. GOOD TECHNIQUE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 3 2
♥ A 10
♦ A J 9 7 4
♣ A 9 6

WEST
♠ 9 6 4
♥ K 9 5 4 2
♦ 10
♣ Q 8 7 2

EAST
♠ 10 8 5 5
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ Q 6 3 2
♣ J 10

SOUTH
♠ A K J 7
♥ Q 8
♦ K 8 5
♣ K 5 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 Pass
3 Pass 4 NT Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
Dear Tannan:
I have for years held Christian

Mari in great esteem, both as a player and as a person. He played this hand in the France-Sweden match at the recent World Team Championships.

North's jump to three clubs was a transfer to three diamonds and four

no trump was a natural invitation to

slam. South judged his prime con-

trols and ruffing value justified ac-

ceptance of the try and be chose to

play in the suit in case a heart ruff

was needed.

Mari won the spade lead in hand and was dismayed at the duplication in hearts. Since 12 tricks were there if the trump suit could be brought in without loss, declarer cashed the king and learned the bad news when West showed out on the second diamond. Dummy's jack was played and East shifted to the jack of clubs after taking the queen of diamonds. To preserve dummy's entry, declarer won in hand. Two more rounds of trumps extracted the enemy's fangs and declarer paused to review the situation.

To make the rest of the tricks he needed to find one of the defenders with at least four clubs and the king of hearts. If it were West, declarer could simply cash the last diamond and three spades, and discard from dummy whichever suit West retained.

But if East held the key cards, dummy would have to discard first. For the squeeze to operate on either defender, declarer cashed the ace of hearts—a Vienna Coup. Now when the winners were cashed dummy could come down to two clubs and whoever initially held four clubs and the king of hearts would have to concede. Voila!

As ever,
Omar

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 29, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Analyse your holding and what you owe to others and you will come to some very interesting conclusions about how best to operate in the future. Pursue hobbies and recreation with family.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider what you can do to increase your business success by the most accepted, proven methods and be careful not to make commitments just yet.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) One who has varied experiences than you in the field of finances is the one for you to consult today and don't rely on your own judgment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your practical affairs need to be carefully analysed and plans made for later expansion while a secret worry can cause you to act unwisely.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You yourself see how you can improve your position by a greater amount of deliberation and planning for the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A long time companion in recreations has some very good ideas for your future enjoyment and listen to that person instead of a money-conscious worldly person.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider from every aspect what you can do to make conditions at your residence more satis-

factory and sidestep a newcomer who tends to restrict you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about your usual companions and what you can do to make conditions more as they wish over a period of time; don't get excited over a money matter.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The attention you pay to the practical part of your life will today bring you the best possible results and don't pursue outside egoists.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over what interests you for a considerable period of time to come and tread your efforts in that direction, putting off dull chores that would interfere.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel impelled to make some decisions about partners and that's all right if you consider them for your constant contacts but don't get into costly pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Getting out from under some pressing obligation and arranging vocational duties to your liking is fine but don't let family sidetrack this desirable way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a good chance now to understand just what friends, acquaintances and your mate expect of you over a period of time so stay close to them.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"My weight problem is your fault." — your peaches and cream complexion makes me hungry!

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Fred Arnold and Bill Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GINIC

ANAFU

UNTEAR

Police jordanienne

Les policiers en jupons

450 policiers jordaniens sont en fait des policières. Pour ces «femmes-flics», le régime de discipline et d'entraînement est le même que pour les hommes.

Aujourd'hui, la femme jordanienne travaille avec l'homme côte à côte pour remplir un devoir noble: protéger la patrie et assurer la sécurité et la tranquillité du citoyen.

C'est en 1971 qu'on a fondé la première école d'entraînement de la police féminine. Le premier noyau était formé de six filles et le nombre des inscriptions a rapidement augmenté. Pour cette raison, un décret royal a donné en 1978 le droit à cette école de prendre le nom d'Institut de la princesse Bassma.

Pour qu'une fille puisse adhérer à cet institut, il faut qu'elle soit jordanienne, puisse présenter un certificat de bonnes moeurs et n'ait adhéré à aucun parti politique. De plus, elle doit posséder le diplôme d'études secondaires supérieures, être célibataire et âgée de moins de 27 ans. Elle doit enfin passer avec succès les examens d'aptitude nécessaires.

La mission essentielle de l'Institut est d'organiser des cours d'entraînement, de préparation et de qualification pour adapter



La femme policier assume les mêmes responsabilités qu'un autre policier.

les filles à la vie militaire en quatre mois.

Régulièrement, des cours de «rafraichissement» rappellent aux femmes policières les informations qui leur permettent de rester en contact avec les dernières évolutions des organismes de police mondiaux.

Des cours de spécialisation permettent aux femmes policières de développer leurs capacités dans tel ou tel domaine de la police spécialisée.

Elles participent aux mêmes tâches avec toutefois une légère spécialisation dans la délinquance féminine et celle des mineurs.

leur activité elles faisaient vibrer la salle de sport de leurs cris.

Pour se reposer, elles disposent d'un club où elles peuvent regarder la télévision et jouer aux échecs. Les repas sont servis dans un restaurant self-service ultra-moderne et diététiquement étudiés.

La discipline et l'obéissance des filles envers leurs professeurs et responsables est impressionnante. L'entraînement militaire, dans cet institut, est assuré par des spécialistes de l'Institut d'entraînement des officiers et du collège des sciences de sécurité. Les filles reçoivent des cours sur l'armement et sur l'ordre militaire en plus des différents cours théoriques.

Les débouchés pour la femme policier sont variés. Pour le travail de bureau, elle doit faire preuve d'une grande patience et d'un amour de l'organisation. L'investigation criminelle exige une bonne compréhension de la psychologie des femmes et des mineurs. Pour les travaux de laboratoire et de criminologie, il faut apprendre à relever des empreintes, connaître les prin-

cipes de la photographie criminelle, de l'analyse chimique et biologique et de la comparaison des documents ou des armes. Dans le domaine de la sécurité préventive, les femmes policières procèdent aux fouilles des femmes dans les aéroports ou dans les différents départements de l'Etat. Elles peuvent aussi assurer la sécurité des personnalités féminines, comme gardes du corps. D'autres femmes travaillent à la recherche sociologique qui consiste à donner aux responsables une image fidèle de la réalité sociale du moment grâce à des sondages intérieurs, concernant les individus travaillant dans les départements de la Sécurité publique, ou extérieurs, concernant les citoyens.

La femme policier joue un rôle important de conseil auprès des citoyens, qui l'appellent dans ce cas à une assistance sociale. Comme les hommes, elle peut aussi régler la circulation et travailler dans les départements d'immigration, de statistique criminelle et d'accidents de la circulation.

En visitant cet institut, on a le sentiment d'être au milieu de femmes courageuses, qui considèrent leur métier avec honneur et fierté.

Chahida Al-Hadidi

CLIN

D'CEIL

Epaissir démocratique

L'abolition des lois d'exception se trouve subordonnée au dénouement des soixante procès qui constituent l'affaire «Petra Bank». Le résumé des dépositions a donné lieu jusqu'ici à un dossier de dix centimètres d'épaisseur! Du jamais vu pour le premier ministre. Du «déjà vu», en revanche, pour certains députés, alors que d'autres ne savent plus à quel prophète se fier en ces moments de crise. Une raison de plus pour que la Cour mariale tranche vite dans cette affaire.

Bref, plus que dix centimètres et la démocratie fonctionnera à plein...

Ayman Masamrat

EN BREF

Infiltration. Quatre personnes ont été tuées après avoir essayé les uns des forces jordaniennes, alors qu'elles tentaient de s'infiltrer samedi 21 au soir en Jordanie à partir du territoire syrien. La région où ces éléments se sont infiltrés est une zone généralement utilisée par les trafiquants de drogue et d'armes essayant de faire passer leur marchandise de Syrie en Jordanie.

Trafic. Un réseau de trafic d'armes à destination de l'Egypte a été récemment démantelé en Jordanie et la police a arrêté 15 personnes impliquées dans ce trafic. Les trafiquants -des Jordaniens et des Egyptiens- ont été arrêtés à Karak, alors qu'ils se dirigeaient vers le port d'Aqaba avec 39 armes, mitrailleurs et révolvers.

Mariage. La princesse Aïcha, 21 ans, fille du roi Hussein et de sa deuxième épouse, la princesse Mona, s'est mariée jeudi soir à un Jordanien, Zeid Sa'deddine Jouma, fils du secrétaire général de la présidence du conseil. La princesse Aïcha est lieutenant dans l'armée jordanienne et a reçu un entraînement de parachutiste. Son mari, 24 ans, est économiste et travaille à la Banque Centrale.

Irak-Koweït. Le roi Hussein et le président égyptien Hosni Mubarak ont tenu un sommet lundi à Alexandrie pour discuter de la crise qui oppose l'Irak au Koweït, en présence du chef de la diplomatie irakienne, M. Tarek Aziz. Le Caire exerce actuellement ses bons offices en vue de désamorcer la crise qui a surgi entre l'Irak et le Koweït à propos de leurs gisements de pétrole respectifs et a annoncé mercredi une rencontre imminente entre les responsables des deux pays en Arabie Saoudite.

Pétrole. Les pays membres de l'OPEP se sont mis d'accord vendredi à Genève pour réduire leur production quotidienne de pétrole de 700.000 barils. L'objectif est de faire monter de 3 dollars le prix du baril, qui devrait ainsi atteindre les 21 dollars.

URSS. Mikhaïl Gorbatchev vient de déclarer illégales les formations armées qui se sont créées en URSS ces derniers temps et leur donne 15 jours pour se dissoudre et remettre leurs armes aux autorités. Bien que ne se référant à aucune milice armée en particulier, M. Gorbatchev vise principalement les milices armées qui ont affirmé considérablement leur autorité ces derniers mois en Arménie, au point de supplanter, dans bien des cas, les autorités officielles de la République.

Sécheresse. La canicule qui sévit ces derniers jours en Turquie, en Grèce, en Italie, en Espagne et en France, a entraîné de graves problèmes de sécheresse qui ont conduit les autorités de ces pays à prendre des mesures d'urgence pour faire face à la pénurie d'eau. En France par exemple, les restrictions d'eau se sont multipliées. Les autorités locales de plusieurs départements de Normandie (ouest), du Centre, du Sud-ouest et de Provence (sud-est) ont interdit l'arrosage des pelouses, le lavage des voitures et le remplissage des piscines. Certaines usines ont dû cesser leur activité, comme la centrale nucléaire de Golfech (sud-ouest) à cause de la température trop élevée du fleuve de la Garonne.

Pardon. Le président de la République française, François Mitterrand, a prononcé vendredi la grâce et la libération du terroriste libanais pro-iranien Anis Naccache, auteur d'un attentat manqué à Paris contre l'ancien premier ministre iranien Chapur Bakhtiar. Anis Naccache et ses quatre complices sont arrivés dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi à Téhéran. De son côté, la Belgique a fait savoir mercredi qu'elle était disposée à libérer un membre du groupe palestinien Abou Nidal condamné à perpétuité, en échange de la libération des quatre otages belges du Silco détenus au Liban.

Inculpations. La police française a prononcé seize inculpations dans l'affaire du trafic d'armes récemment découvert entre le Liban et la France. Parmi les inculpés figurent 11 policiers ou anciens policiers, et l'ancien chef d'escorte de l'ambassade de France à Beyrouth, Jean-Claude Labourdette.

Automobile. La dernière 2 CV est sortie vendredi d'une chaîne de montage portugaise. La «Deuxche» qui n'était plus produite que dans cette seule usine, à la cadence journalière d'environ 85 exemplaires par jour, sera remplacée sur cette chaîne, dès septembre, par la petite AX jagée plus rentable. La 2 CV (voiture non marchée et décapotable) était un symbole du folklore français, un même titre que le cambert ou la baguette. Au total, elle aura été vendue à plus de 7 millions d'exemplaires à travers le monde au cours d'une carrière qui aura duré près de 50 ans.

LA SEMAINE...

de Sulaiman Sweiss

La gauche se rassemble

Dimanche dernier, une coalition des partis de gauche est née. Elle s'appelle le «Rassemblement Arabe Nationaliste Démocratique Jordanien» (RANDJ). Une quarantaine de personnalités, représentant les formations marxistes et nationalistes, des députés et d'autres individus indépendants, mais affiliés à la gauche ont signé la plateforme politique annonçant la naissance de la coalition.

Cette plateforme adopte comme objectifs les points suivants:

- Renforcer la politique d'ouverture démocratique;
- Adopter une politique économique alternative à celle entérinée par le Fonds Monétaire International;
- Protéger la Jordanie des visées expansionnistes sionistes;
- Soutenir la lutte palestinienne et l'OLP;
- Mener une politique sociale en faveur des classes désavantagées.

Trois facteurs ont poussé les signataires à conclure l'accord. D'abord, les résultats des élections législatives générales ont démontré que la gauche a perdu à cause de ses divergences et ses dissensions. Elle aurait pu avoir le double des députés qu'elle a actuellement à la Chambre. Ensuite, malgré le boycott des Frères Musulmans, la grande marche du 14 mai dernier en faveur de l'intifada a bien démontré combien la gauche peut mobiliser et -au delà- influencer les masses. La réussite de cette manifestation a redonné aux partis de gauche la confiance en eux-mêmes. Enfin, devant la montée du courant islamiste, ces partis ont compris que seule leur coalition pourrait rééquilibrer la vie politique dans le pays.

Au cours des trente dernières années, aucune des tentatives d'unification de la gauche n'a abouti. La dernière en date est celle réalisée lors de l'invasion israélienne au sud-Liban en mars 1978. Un «Rassemblement des Forces Populaires en Jordanie» a vu le jour. Mais, au bout de quelques années, il s'est effrit.

Les difficultés dans lesquelles les partis de gauche menaient leur combat expliquent en partie leur faiblesse et leur dispersion. Ils ont été -jusqu'à une période récente- la cible de poursuites et de répression de la part des autorités. Des milliers de militants et activistes ou simples membres de ces partis ont passé de très nombreuses années en prison. Mais attribuer la faible popularité de la gauche aux conditions de la clandestinité et de la répression c'est ne reconnaître que la moitié de la vérité! Au cours des deux dernières décennies, les partis de gauche n'ont pas relevé les défis qui se sont dressés devant eux sur les plans idéologique, politique et organisationnel. N'est-il pas étonnant et significatif qu'aucun de ces partis ne possède encore un véritable programme politique, bien défini et adopté démocratiquement par sa base? N'est-il pas dramatique qu'on ne sache pas encore l'adjectif qu'il faut donner à ce nouveau «mouvement national» dans le pays? Tantôt le qualificatif est «jordanien», tantôt «en Jordanie» et une troisième fois on l'appelle «mouvement national jordanien-palestinien». Faire abstraction du problème ou se réfugier derrière la dénomination «arabe», est-ce la solution?

Nous croyons qu'une bonne partie des difficultés de la gauche est liée au faible degré de maturité de cette gauche. Les autres forces politiques ne possèdent pas non plus de solutions alternatives. En réplique au slogan selon lequel «l'Islam est la solution», certains ont répondu que «la Démocratie est la solution», ce qui nous paraît plus proche de la réalité.

Pour revenir au nouveau rassemblement, nous croyons qu'une erreur tactique a été commise quant au moment de son annonce. Il fallait, à notre avis, attendre l'octroi de l'autorisation des partis politiques légalement et officiellement. Dans le préambule de la plateforme, il est dit que le rassemblement adopte des moyens pacifiques et constitutionnels pour sa lutte. Comment alors les partis constitutifs peuvent-ils former un front avant d'avoir été légalisés? Néanmoins, il faut regarder d'un bon oeil tout effort commun pour se rassembler. Plus important que la forme et la plateforme est le dynamisme dont va faire preuve ce Rassemblement. Car dans le monde arabe, on le sait depuis longtemps, ce qui compte avant tout ce sont les actions.



Jamal Badrane

60 ans au service de l'art islamique

Un pinceau, de l'or, des écritures islamiques, Jamal Badrane transforme un simple vase de verre soufflé en un objet d'art très coté sur le marché jordanien.

Installé à Amman, mais d'origine palestinienne, cet octogénaire est devenu, au fil de soixante ans de travail artistique, un expert connu en Jordanie comme dans d'autres pays arabes dans l'art islamique et l'écriture «kufi».

A 25 ans, il était sollicité pour la restauration des ornements de la mosquée al-Aksa de Jérusalem en 1927. Il devait s'occuper -à nouveau- de la restauration de cette mosquée, notamment de sa chaire en bois sculpté de Salaheddine al-Ayoubi, après l'incendie qui l'a ravagé en 1969.

Badrane poursuit inlassablement sa tâche, à l'âge de 81 ans, et consacre dix heures par jour à ses créations. Chaque pièce qu'il crée est unique pour préserver son authenticité.

Il se dit «différent» des autres artistes qui fleurissent en Jordanie et auxquels il reproche d'être de simples «techniciens» de l'art islamique et de ne pas dépasser le stade de l'artisan se contentant de

reproduire. Pour lui, l'art est «porteur d'un message». Et Badrane transmet ses messages par ses tableaux, ses vases, ses lampadaires, ses assiettes, ses coffrets ou même ses reliures de livres en cuir.

«J'ai passé toute ma vie à oeuvrer en vue de faire revivre l'art arabe et islamique», affirme Badrane, animé toujours du même désir de produire et de créer.

Faute d'avoir les moyens de fonder un institut pour enseigner cet art et faire profiter les générations futures de son expérience, Badrane s'attèle en ce moment à la mise au point d'un livre dans lequel il insère les règles et critères de l'art arabe islamique. Un art «abstrait», selon lui, qui diffère de l'art islamique persan repro-

duisant la réalité telle qu'elle est. Né à Haïfa en 1909, Badrane a appris l'art islamique au Caire, où il s'est rendu en 1922, et l'a perfectionné ensuite à Londres avant de se rendre en Libye et d'y résider dix ans en tant qu'expert de l'enseignement de l'art auprès de l'UNESCO.

Il retourne ensuite à Jérusalem pour enseigner l'art arabe et islamique dans les écoles et ouvre, en 1963, un atelier d'art à Ramallah. Il est sollicité en 1978 par la Jordanie pour participer à la décoration de la mosquée de l'Université de Jordanie.

Ses trois enfants de Badrane, deux ont hérité de la passion de leur père pour l'art islamique: son fils Rasseem, architecte connu en Jordanie pour son style islamique, et sa fille Samira, peintre, qui a élu domicile en Espagne. Sa deuxième fille, Leila, est pharmacienne.

Nabil Rachid

Vous écrivez?

Si la plume vous démange, que vous écriviez en français... «Le Jourdain» vous ouvre ses deux pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions y sont les bienvenues.

Jean-Marc Bordes, French section, Jordan Times.
P.O. Box 6710. Tél: 667171.

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لدينا من الجاهل

Après 130 ans

La troupe tcherkesse au pays de ses aïeux

Deux jours après leur spectacle annuel au palais culturel le lundi 30 juillet, la troupe de danse folklorique tcherkesse de Nadi al-Jeel al-Jadid se rendra pour deux semaines dans l'ancien pays des Tcherkesses, l'actuelle république de Kabardino-Balkarie, en URSS. Ce sera la première visite officielle d'une délégation des Tcherkesses de Jordanie dans le Caucase depuis la fuite de leurs aïeux, en 1860, après des années de guerre et de persécution religieuse.



Des hommes forts, courageux et chevaleresques.

Amer Dakhan, chorégraphe et responsable de la troupe, explique que l'idée de ce voyage est venue de Nadi al-Jeel, le club auquel la troupe appartient, après sa tournée aux Etats-Unis il y a un an.

L'accueil chaleureux dont a fait preuve la communauté tcherkesse américaine nous a poussés à entreprendre un voyage beaucoup plus aventureux: aller danser dans le pays de nos aïeux, dit-il. Ainsi, une troupe de 70 danseurs, âgés de 18 à 21 ans, verront pour la première fois ce pays légendaire.

N'y avait-il eu aucun contact entre les deux communautés avant cette initiative?

C'est Janset Dakhan, sœur du chorégraphe, membre du comité culturel et organisatrice qui répond:

«Nous avons toujours gardé des contacts. En premier lieu, nous avons tous des parents éloignés avec qui nous avons maintenu des liens; deuxièmement, beaucoup de jeunes gens ont fait leurs études en Russie; et sur le plan professionnel, beaucoup des costumes que la troupe utilise proviennent du Caucase. Ce qui est nouveau, c'est que la visite, cette fois-ci, prend la forme d'une représentation officielle.»

Ont-ils préparé un spectacle particulier pour cette occasion?

«Le spectacle que nous offrons est celui sur lequel la troupe travaille depuis qu'elle a été fondée, en 1980, dit Amer Dakhan. Elle contient tout ce que nous voulons communiquer à nos frères et nos sœurs lors de cette rencontre, c'est à dire: en dépit de tragédies, de ruptures, de convictions politiques différentes, nous avons réussi à préserver notre héritage, qui est aussi le vôtre.»

Vent-il dire par là que la danse folklorique est le reflet le plus fidèle de cet héritage commun?

Plutôt qu'une voix, c'est un chœur à trois qui l'affirme. A la voix du frère et de la sœur s'est maintenant jointe celle de Said Bazoka, le compositeur et l'arrangeur de la troupe. Il remarque que le premier pas vers une réunion ne peut s'affirmer que par un étalage de la tradition commune. Puis Amer Dakhan, reprenant la parole, explique que la danse est un reflet de la composition historique de la société tcherkesse et incarne les valeurs auxquelles ils tiennent le plus.

Estime-t-il que danser dans le pays de leurs ancêtres sera une expérience radicalement différente de la présentation d'une soirée folklorique à la communauté tcherkesse des Etats-Unis?

«Radicalement. Nous avons voyagé aux Etats-Unis avec l'intention de faire connaître à une communauté tcherkesse amalgamée sa propre tradition. Du voyage en URSS, nous attendons exactement le contraire. C'est eux qui sont la source et c'est à nous d'affirmer les symboles», dit Amer Dakhan comparant les deux expériences.

De quels symboles s'agit-il? «De tous les symboles que la danse incarne. Ils verront que nous attendons de tous les jeunes Circassiens ce qu'ils attendent eux-mêmes: que les hommes soient forts, courageux, chevaleresques; que les femmes soient tendres, gracieuses et pleines de dignité. Et ce n'est qu'un des symboles. Par notre mise en scène d'un mariage villageois, ils verront que nous attachons encore beaucoup d'importance à la manière dont les couples se rencontrent et se réunissent, selon des traditions qui remontent à la société de nos ancêtres. Et le plus frappant sera l'exposition par nos danseurs - qui n'y sont jamais allés - de caractéristiques intrinsèques au pays», dit Amer Dakhan qui explique: «Un jeune danseur rappelle à la vie par ses attitudes pleines de force et d'agilité le noble cheval de Qabartai, et quand il prend son essor, il exprime avec ses bras le

monvement majestueux de l'aigle dans la plus haute de nos montagnes, l'Elbrouz. L'aigle et le cheval. Symboles déterminants.»

Leur itinéraire les conduira dans cinq villes, parmi lesquelles Naltchik, la capitale. Qu'espèrent-ils ramener?

Said Bazoka, le seul d'entre les trois à être déjà passé par le Caucase, suggère que pour lui ce séjour aura une valeur de pèlerinage. Amer et Janset partagent le même sentiment. Leurs vœux exaucés, leurs demandes sont modestes: voir tout voir - et ramener des souvenirs. Janset brise le silence qui suit, revenant à l'ordre du jour et notant qu'il faudra se servir de l'héritage pour repartir sur une base nouvelle.

«La présentation de notre spectacle est comme un test, dit elle. Elle nous permet de savoir jusqu'à quel point nous avons réussi à protéger notre héritage. L'autre aspect de l'événement est que cette représentation aura lieu dans de remarquables circonstances. Quand nos aïeux quitteront le Caucase, la société tcherkesse, communauté d'agriculteurs-guerriers, était très divisée. Les tribus ne cessaient de se faire la guerre entre elles. Nous, la nouvelle génération, retons en paix. C'est historique.»

Sami Kamal



Des femmes tendres, gracieuses et pleines de dignité.

Transports en France

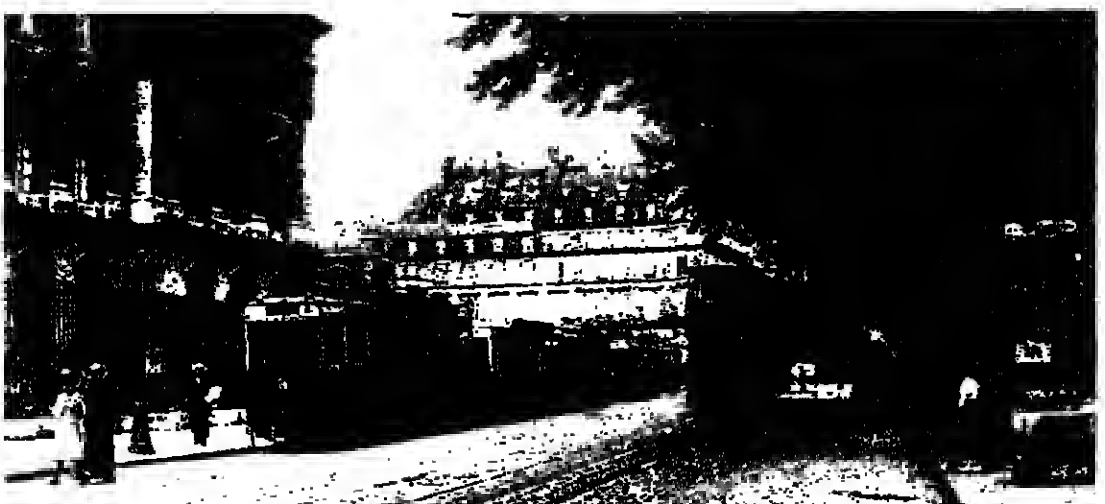
Le retour du tramway

On avait perdu l'habitude en France de voir des tramways. Dans les années 1970, presque toutes les villes avaient fermé leurs lignes en estimant qu'il s'agissait d'une technologie dépassée: ferrailleur, inconfortable, englué dans la marée automobile, le tramway avait mauvaise presse et il n'en restait que trois ou quatre lignes, notamment à Marseille, St-Etienne et Lille.

Considérant que l'exemple de la Suisse, de l'Autriche ou des pays de l'est, qui n'ont jamais abandonné le tramway, méritait d'être suivi, le gouvernement français demanda, en 1975, aux maires de neuf grandes villes d'étudier la possibilité de réintroduire ce véhicule sur rail dans leur cité. Il se tourna vers la société Alstom pour la conception d'un «tramway français standard», moderne, silencieux et moins coûteux qu'un métro classique.

La première ville à se lancer dans l'aventure fut Nantes qui décida, en 1979, de créer une ligne de 10 Km et de 22 stations, qui fut mise en service avec 28 rames de deux voitures capables de circuler à une vitesse commerciale de 23 Km/h, à un intervalle de cinq minutes aux heures de pointe. Le succès a été immédiat. L'augmentation de la fréquentation des transports en commun nantais a été de 29% alors que les charges d'exploitation n'ont progressé que de 1,6% en francs constants. Les subventions ont été stabilisées et le rapport entre les recettes et les dépenses est passé de 48,6% à 54,4%.

Une deuxième ville s'est laissée convaincre par cet ex-



Tramway devant le Louvre, à Paris, vers 1914.

emple que le tramway était la solution à ses problèmes d'engorgement du centre-ville: Grenoble se dote, en 1987, d'une ligne de 9 Km sur laquelle rouleront trente-cinq exemplaires d'un modèle de tramways encore plus perfectionné que celui de Nantes.

En effet, la capitale de l'Isère veut privilégier les handicapés et tous ceux que leur mobilité réduite empêche de fréquenter tant qu'ils le désiraient les transports en commun. Sur un tramway classique, le plancher du véhicule se trouve à 45 cm du rail et plusieurs marches sont nécessaires pour y accéder. Le tramway grenoblois innove dans la mesure où son plancher a été abaissé à moins de 35 cm du rail sur les deux tiers de la longueur du véhicule pour ne laisser subsister qu'une dénivellation minime de 10 cm, ce qui représente un excellent accès. Pour les passagers circulant dans un fauteuil roulant, il est prévu une petite rampe mobile et manœuvrable à la demande

Mieux que le bus

A la fin de 1992, un nouveau réseau de ce «métro léger» sera inauguré en région parisienne, entre les communes de Bobigny et Saint-Denis, soit 9 Km et 22 stations qui desserviront seize rames doubles exploitées par la RATP.

Ces projets ont donné à de nombreuses villes moyennes l'envie de se lancer dans l'aventure d'un réseau de tramway. Celui-ci transporte nettement plus de voyageurs qu'un réseau de bus, soit environ 19.000 voyageurs à l'heure contre 4.000. Ses rails étant le plus souvent implantés hors de la voie classique où circulent les automobiles, il est relativement épargné par les embouteillages et permet une vitesse commerciale d'une vingtaine de kilomètres-heure à moins de dix pour les bus parisiens. Circulant en surface, il n'a pas besoin de tunnels coûteux comme le métro et ne gêne pas trop les comptes des villes moyennes dont les finances ne pourraient pas supporter de telles dépenses.

Alain Faujes

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Cinéma et Histoire

Une révolution allemande d'inspiration française

Domage que le film du réalisateur scénariste Helmut Herbst - une conjonction d'histoire et de littérature - ait un si faible script. Le sujet de *Elise Deutsche Revolution* (Une révolution allemande, 1981), présenté le mardi 31 à l'Institut Goethe, fascine. Il relie un épisode de l'histoire du Landgraviat de Hesse, territoire limitrophe de la France et touché par la Révolution française, aux activités politiques de Georg Büchner, dramaturge, enfant du pays et admirateur des révolutions de 1789 et de juillet 1830.

Rappelons les événements: épris des idées républicaines qu'il avait rencontrées à Strasbourg, l'étudiant Georg Büchner se mit en mars 1834 en contact avec des éléments progressistes en Allemagne et, en rentrant pour les vacances de Pâques, produisit un petit livre dans lequel il exprimait le fond de sa pensée socialiste et appelait les 700.000 paysans de Hesse à une révolte armée contre l'Etat. Le manifeste, *Der Hessische Landbote* (Le Courrier de Hesse, 1834) est l'œuvre d'un écrivain doté d'une conscience sociale aigüe et d'un sens profond de la justice. *Elise Deutsche Revolution* veut nous instruire sur la gèpèse et les tonnequènes de ce document.

La révolution envisagée par Büchner et ses conjurés n'aura jamais lieu. A peine avaient-ils distribué le manifeste, en juillet 1834, que, trahis par l'un des leurs - un agent provocateur - ils furent arrêtés, y compris le pasteur Ludwig Weidig, chef clandestin des Libéraux qui avait aidé Büchner à prendre contact avec les paysans. Büchner, en revanche, épargné faute de preuve de complicité, fut trahi à son tour par un élément inattendu. Les paysans eux-mêmes renièrent les exemplaires du *Landbote* aux gendarmes. Cette déception poussa Büchner à rédiger sa première pièce de théâtre, *Dantons Tod* (La mort de Danton), drame d'un révolutionnaire déçu aussi bien par ses propres actes que par ceux de ses confrères.

Le film de Helmut Herbst n'est pas une œuvre poétique dans laquelle - comme dans *Dantons Tod* - les idées et les déceptions politiques se transforment en projections émotionnelles des personnes impliquées. Herbst s'est borné à une interprétation quasi documentaire des idéologies sans explorer la qualité de leurs idées. En se limitant ainsi, il a laissé passer l'occasion d'illuminer une richesse de thèmes et de contradictions qui valaient pourtant bien l'effort. Ainsi, il ne fait que frôler le fait que *Der Hessische Landbote* fut une collaboration d'un athée (Büchner) et d'un homme de Dieu (Weidig) réunis par leur sentiment anti-autoritaire mais opposés dans les autres domaines politiques - surtout pour ce qui touchait au libéralisme. Quelle était alors la politique de ce pamphlet? Sur quoi s'étaient-ils entendus? Le film n'en dit rien.

De même, il était important de montrer le sens du réalisme avec lequel Büchner pensait agir. Quand sa fiancée, Mlle Jaegle de Strasbourg, lui demande comment il espère faire une révolution avec les paysans sans Marseillaise ou Carmagnole, il reste silencieux dans le film. Pourtant Büchner était un réaliste farouche.

Une des questions les plus intéressantes aurait dû être la réaction de Büchner à la trahison des paysans. Herbst n'ignore pas le fait que quatre ans avant l'arrivée du jeune révolutionnaire, les paysans de Hesse avaient été brutalement massacrés à la suite d'une révolte inspirée par les journées de juillet 1830. Mais il n'explore pas la probabilité que les idées de Büchner aient pu se heurter, quatre ans plus tard, à la terrible peur de ces paysans, au point qu'ils aient préféré le trahir que de combattre pour leur salut. Ces circonstances expliquent bien l'acérbie sous-entendu de *Dantons Tod*, où les muses de la révolution se métamorphosent en alliées de la tyrannie.

Ce genre d'exploration - la croissance des idées et de la psychologie individuelle - ne pouvait se faire que par un moyen romanesque. Herbst avait la chance de disposer précisément de cette base avec le roman de Kasimir Eschmied dont il a gardé le titre. Mais il a préféré se dégoûter de tels thèmes. Il ne s'occupe plus, dans la deuxième partie du film, que des souffrances du pasteur Weidig, arrêté sans procès, pour brosser le portrait d'un système judiciaire barbare qu'il estime, en fin de compte, être plus important du point de vue politique. De fait, la mort du pasteur dans des circonstances mystérieuses, provoquera en 1837 des critiques et la revendication de réformes. Quant au jeune Büchner, dont le *Dantons Tod* sera au XXème siècle le point de départ du théâtre Expressionniste allemand, pas un mot de plus.

Sami Kamal

CINEMA

TELEVISION

"Justin de Marseille" (1934).

Film de Maurice Tourneur, avec Pierre Larquey. Justin dirige une bande de trafiquants de drogue dans la cité méditerranéenne du sud de la France.

Centre Culturel Français, lundi 30 juillet à 20h00.

"The red badge of courage" (1951) inspiré du célèbre roman américain de Stephen Bent Crane sur les tribulations d'une jeune recrue de l'armée américaine pendant la guerre de Sécession: les marches, la peur du combat, la souffrance, la honte, d'un jeune homme qui meurt trop vite. Le thème de la peur exprime aussi la haine de John Huston à l'égard du McCarthisme, qui sévissait à l'époque où le film fut tourné.

Centre américain, le dimanche 29 juillet à 19h (en anglais).

"Une révolution allemande" (Elise Deutsche Revolution), d'Helmut Herbst (1981). En 1834, l'étudiant Georg Büchner et le pasteur Weidig de la petite ville de Butzbach écrivent ensemble le plus fameux pamphlet de la littérature allemande, *«Hessische Landboten»*. L'idée de ce pamphlet consistait à renverser le système oppressif par une révolte des paysans prolétaires. Mais la révolution n'a pas lieu, faute d'une base solide. Le pasteur meurt en prison et Georg Büchner s'enfuit en France. Voir FOCUS.

Institut Goethe, le mardi 31 juillet, à 20h.

"The Emerald Forest" de John Boorman. L'histoire d'un jeune occidental enlevé et élevé par les indigènes d'Amazonie. Adolescent il se souvient de ses parents et se rapproche de la ville pour essayer de les retrouver. British Council, le mardi 31 juillet, à 19h.

Ciné-club. Séance quinquennale à 20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00. Dimanche: «Missippi burning» (1968), d'Alan Parker, avec Jean Hackett.

Lundi: «Angel Heart» (1987), d'Alan Parker, avec Robert de Niro et Mickey Rourke.

Mardi: «The African Queen» (1959), de John Huston.

Mercredi: «Apocalypse Now» de Francis Ford Coppola; avec Martin Sheen et Marlon Brando.

Jeudi: «One from the heart» de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Nastassja Kinski.

Vendredi: «Cotton Club» de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Gregory Hines et Richard Gere. Samedi: «Outsiders» de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Matt Dillon. Films en version originale. Rentrée de l'université, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300 m, sur la gauche de la rue.

DIMANCHE

17h45 - Denver, le dernier danseur. Dessin animé.

18h15 - Le Namib, un désert original. Documentaire sur le désert de Namibie.

18h35 - Ca c'est du cinéma. Documentaire sur les techniques de bases du tournage.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

18h10 - L'homme et la nature. Série documentaire.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

17h45 - L'expédition du mont Blanc. Documentaire sur les volcans.

18h10 - Des chiffres et des lettres.

18h30 - Tel Père, Tel Fils. Série humoristique, dernier épisode.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

17h05 - L'ami Mampassant. Série retraçant la vie de cet auteur français du XIXème siècle. Aujourd'hui: «Hassot père et fils».

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

JEUDI

17h45 - «Mollérissimo» (14): dessin animé.

18h10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres.

18h30 - Le Chapeau aux Chansons: émission de variétés du passé, présentée par Pascal Seguin.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sésame. Le magazine de l'événement. Aujourd'hui: Maurice Kolt sur la Méduse.

VENREDI

17h30 - Le retour du Grand blond: première partie. Film comique avec Pierre Richard, Michelle Duc et Jean Rochefort. Deuxième partie de ce défilé du Grand blond à Rio: les amoureux qui se retrouvent.

18h10 - Le Journal.

19h15 - La révolution de l'intelligence. Aujourd'hui: les chanteurs goliards.

SAMEDI

17h45 - «Champs Elysées». Emission de variétés présentée par Michel Drucker, avec l'actrice Nathalie Baye en invité d'honneur.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Documentaire sportif: Les poètes heures du terrain vert.

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Mouton

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
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8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: elles s'embarquent. 2: petites arêtes; démonstratif. 3: adjectif possessif. 4: elles sont pleines de gens; sa fille est restée célèbre. 5: avec la vie; officier nazi. 6: digne. 7: lieux; longue période. 8: petit ruisseau; nettes. 9: respect. 10: couple; de l'Eston.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 20:

Horizontalement.

1: arbitrage. 2: lui; tu. 3: licenciés. 4: énoncé. 5: mercerie. 6: no; ch. 7: erreur. 8: dose; sp. 9: es; Lame. 10: serpe; étre.

Verticalement.

A: enseignant. B: préposition; sud de la France. C: pronom; chemins vers les toilettes. D: salue. E: article arabe; possédative; règle. F: personnes; unité de mesure chinoise. G: intérieur en grec; note; essence. H: Travaux Publics; songes. I: précéder. J: posséder; de l'Eston.

Verticalement.

A: Allemands. B: ruiné; osc. C: bièmes. D: encore. E: tance; le. F: cerceau. G: ami; urne. H: guerre; réor. I: saxophones.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

SEXE. Deux équipes de chercheurs britanniques viennent de découvrir un gène qui serait à l'origine de la détermination du sexe de l'embryon. Selon ces chercheurs, ce gène est présent dans une minuscule région du chromosome Y (masculin) mais pas dans le chromosome X (féminin). Il se met en activité huit semaines après la conception pour produire les organes sexuels masculins.

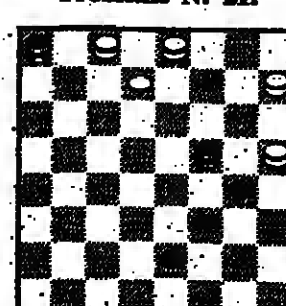
DIAMANTS. Des scientifiques viennent de réaliser un premier diamant isotopiquement pur, 1,5 fois plus efficace comme conducteur électronique que les diamants naturels. La commercialisation de ces nouveaux diamants industriels, qui peuvent atteindre un carat, devrait intervenir dans un ou deux ans. Le marché est estimé entre 50 et 100 millions de dollars par an.

COMA. Un jeune Italien de 25 ans, Marcello Maranzino, est revenu à lui au début de la semaine dernière, alors qu'il était dans le coma depuis trois ans à la suite d'un accident de la route survenu le 8 novembre 1987.

DAMES

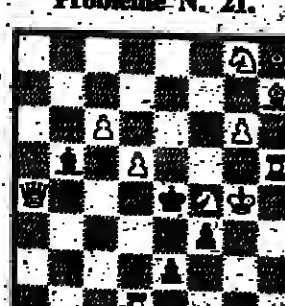
ECHECS

Problème N. 21.



Les blancs gagnent en sept coups.

Problème N. 21.



Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 20:

B. 14-11; N. 23-7; B. 31-28; N. 2-11; B. 28-24; N. 13-6; B. 22-18; N. 29-13; B. 17-19.

Solution du problème N. 20:

Tx2-e5.

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Castro says situation tense

Cuba will get no aid from united Germany

BONN (R) — Cuba, until 1989 the main recipient of development aid from communist East Germany, will get no aid from a united Germany until it carries out political reforms, aid ministers from the two Germanys said Friday.

Aid to Mozambique will continue but civil war in Angola and Ethiopia mean that assistance to those countries will be cautious. Cambodia will receive help only through non-state bodies because it has no diplomatic relations with Bonn.

"Without a fundamental change in political conditions in Cuba, the requirements for state development cooperation between a future united Germany and Cuba will not be met," Bonn's Ministry for Economic Cooperation said in a statement.

The ministry's state secretary, Hans-Peter Repnik, and East Germany's Development Aid Minister Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling made the decision during a meeting on Constance to review East German aid policy.

They agreed to encourage Christian churches to undertake humanitarian projects on the Caribbean island and said these would receive some government support.

In 1989, it received 91 per cent of the 712 million East German marks (\$237 million at the end-

1989 official rate) which East Berlin used to buy goods from Third World countries at preferential prices. The East German mark ceased to exist July 1 when the two German states merged their economies.

Cuba also received over a third of the credits provided by East Germany to developing countries and nearly a third of the aid given in the form of gifts and education and training.

Cuban President Fidel Castro has said that despite a "very tense" situation oil and raw material supplies from Eastern Europe, Cuba was working to "produce more from less" to boost exports and substitute imports.

"We are working in really tense conditions, very tense," Castro said in a speech at a mass rally in Havana Thursday night. The Cuban leader said supplies of oil from the Soviet Union had fallen behind an agreed quota of 13.3 million tonnes in 1990 while supplies of many other raw materials were also tight, notably fertiliser, metal and wood.

Castro said Cuba's trade with some East European countries had "practically disappeared" following their swing away from Communism.

"Who could have imagined that the Socialist bloc would collapse like a pack of cards?" he



Fidel Castro

asked. But he praised the Soviet Union's continuing economic support for his country, saying that any fall-off in Soviet supplies were due to "objective difficulties" there that had nothing to do with Moscow's goodwill towards Cuba.

More than 70 per cent of Cuba's total trade is with the Soviet Union, from which it receives oil, machinery, consumer products and food in exchange for sugar, nickel and citrus fruits.

The Cuban leader said his government was concentrating efforts on boosting exports and substituting imports. Priority areas were tourism, as a potential high hard-currency earner, a national food production programme and new non-traditional exports like medical equipment and medicines.

Pacific group likely to put off 'three Chinas' question

SINGAPORE (R) — Ministers of 12 Asia-Pacific nations meeting for the second time here Monday are expected to send a strong message in support of free trade.

But the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group will probably put off deciding the thorny questions of when and how China, Taiwan and Hong Kong can join the group, diplomats said.

"This is a good time for the APEC meeting, especially with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks just ending, a delegate to the meeting said.

Trade-dependent Asia-Pacific nations are increasingly worried about the slow pace of talks on trade liberalisation, diplomats said.

"We expect a strong political message from the meeting in support of a successful Uruguay Round," a diplomat here said. "It would be a signal the Pacific economic community is here to stay."

Trade talks in Geneva ended Thursday on a sour note, with differences between the United States and the European Community (EC) the main stumbling block, delegates there said.

The Uruguay Round, named after the country where it was launched in 1986 under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, is due to be

wound up by trade ministers meeting in Brussels in December.

APEC, formed just nine months ago, groups Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the United States, as well as the six members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The group was born out of a proposal by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke in January, 1989, and inaugurated last November.

China, Taiwan and Hong Kong were not invited to join the group to avoid antagonising any of them and to avoid offending ASEAN sensibilities, diplomats said.

But diplomats say ASEAN has softened its stand as ties between some of its members and China improve.

Indonesia is scheduled to resume links with China Aug. 8 after a 23-year break. Diplomats expect Singapore to establish relations with China before the end of the year.

A Singapore official said Friday ASEAN would back the membership of the three. The other APEC nations have also welcomed their participation in APEC.

"Membership of the 'three Chinas' will be discussed, but it's unlikely any decision will be made until after Singapore and Indonesia set up ties with China," a diplomat said.

But other obstacles remain in the way of membership.

China wants to join the group as a sovereign nation, but feels that Hong Kong and Taiwan should be observers, a Western diplomat in Peking said.

"The key point is to find a way to recognise China's sovereignty," another diplomat there said.

But delegates to the APEC meeting here said such an arrangement would not be acceptable to all the present members.

"They will probably just agree to start negotiations with the three on how they can join," he added.

Taiwan, one of the world's newly industrialised economies but isolated in the international community, is eager to join APEC. Hong Kong has also expressed keen interest in joining the group.

"Without any of the three, the organisation is not complete," said Augustine Wn, deputy director of Taiwan's Board of Foreign Trade.

Mongolia, Mexico and the Soviet Union are also interested in joining, diplomats said.

Mongolia, Mexico and the Soviet Union are also interested in joining, diplomats said.

But until a decision is made on Chinese membership, probably at the 1991 ministerial meeting in Seoul, other applications for membership will be put on hold, they said.

E. Germany taps financial markets

FRANKFURT (R) — The East German government, strapped for funds as it restructures its crumbling economy, Friday started to raise money on financial markets.

The West German central bank, acting on behalf of the East Berlin finance ministry, said it was inviting East and West German banks to make offers to buy short-term securities.

The Bundesbank did not say how much East Germany aimed to borrow but a Bonn government official said he hoped the issue would raise up to one billion marks (\$600 million).

The East German budget provides for financial market borrowing of 10 billion marks (\$6 billion) in the second half of this year and the official said Friday's announcement signalled only the beginning of such loans.

Direct East German borrowing is only one source of funds aimed at financing the economic merger of the two German economies which took place on July 1 when the West German mark became legal tender in the East.

The West German government is also raising 95 billion marks (\$38 billion) on markets to stock a "German unity fund."

Despite reports Bonn may have underestimated East Germany's cash requirements as it grapples with a free-market eco-

nomy for the first time in over 40 years, the official said the decision to offer short-term notes was not an emergency measure.

The official, who declined to be identified, said, "this was no quick decision." The Bonn government had been considering such an issue for some weeks.

East and West German managers have said East Germany needs far more money than envisaged. "There's just not enough money allocated," Klaus Hoerner, head of a Western consultancy firm advising East German firms, told Reuters in Dresden this week.

The new borrowing by the East German government will also give East German banks access to a German money market dominated by West German players.

Banks buy and sell funds on the money market to make sure they have sufficient cash to cover daily requirements. They also borrow money from the Bundesbank for this purpose.

But East German banks have had little access to the whole range of Bundesbank instruments as funds acquired from the central bank must be backed by securities that East German banks have not held up to now.

East German banks will be able to use the new securities announced Friday as collateral for central bank funding.

Soviet Union's deficit worsens

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's hard currency balance of payments deficit in the first half of 1990 topped 6.4 billion roubles (\$11.01 billion), 150 per cent more than the same time last year, official figures showed Friday.

A report from the Soviet statistics agency Goskomstat, outlined in the latest issue of the weekly Kommersant, said industrial output also faltered and inflation soared during the six-month period.

Kommersant said the full official report had not yet been released. It was forwarded to the Soviet government July 14 for review.

"The economic decline, which has continued for many months, has now become a consistent trend," the newspaper said.

The deterioration in the balance of payments deficit was explained largely by a fall of 9.3 per cent in exports, including 8.2 per

cent to the West.

Imports grew 2.2 per cent. Those from the West rose 3.4 per cent, while 6.1 per cent fewer goods came from Moscow's East European trading partners.

"The future is expected to get dimmer still... the lone ray of hope lies in credits from the West," the newspaper said.

Soviet officials have asked Western creditors for aid to help ensure the success of President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reform programme. Gorbachev wants to introduce a "controlled market economy" to reverse decades of stagnation.

Kommersant said Soviet gross national product fell one per cent, compared with January-June 1989, meaning there was a drop in national output after taking account of inflation.

"Inflation increased relentlessly," it said, quoting Goskomstat figures indicating it might run as high as 20 to 23 per cent this year.

West need not fear oil price rise — Subroto

By James Jukwey

GENEVA — OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said Western countries need not fear that the group would drive oil prices too high.

"I must say that there need not be fear in Western countries that we will drive oil prices to high," the former Indonesian oil minister told Nigerian journalists.

He was asked if an OPEC agreement in Geneva Friday to raise the group's minimum reference price from \$18 to 21 did not indicate it was poised to again raise prices as it did in the mid-1970s.

"Although we are in position to get higher market share we will not misuse the opportunity by pushing prices too high because it won't benefit anyone," Subroto said.

Subroto added that \$21 was not too high. "Right now in nominal terms prices should be \$22.70," he said.

Some key OPEC ministers including Saudi Arabia's Hisham Nazer have said they expect oil prices to reach \$21 by year-end.

Subroto said that between now and December he would tour consumer nations to assure them OPEC's aim was not just to achieve higher oil revenue but also market stability.

"Everybody should appreciate that stable prices are better than wide fluctuation," Subroto added.

The group also decided to peg oil output ceiling at 22.491 million barrels per day (bpd) in a market glutted by excess OPEC production, which has

left inventories high.

Subroto said he expects the glut to be mopped up substantially under the new ceiling and for prices to rise accordingly. "The market I think will react favourably."

The Geneva agreement was a solid one because it had built in ways of checking output violations, he said.

"The mechanisms (in the resolution) are based on the principle of strict, without any exception, adherence," OPEC President Sadek Boussena told reporters earlier.

Subroto said the accord had been reached through compromise by several countries. Before the agreement Iraq and Libya publicly advocated a minimum price of \$25 while most other countries seemed to favour \$20.

Gulf states like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates which have high reserves are known to favour moderate prices to keep oil attractive for consumers.

Subroto said it was a matter of fairness to different OPEC members that in future decisions to increase prices, production is also raised although this is not automatic.

"There is nothing automatic... but we have to think of fairness, so that those who want an increase in volume get a little bit, but those who want to get an increase in price can also get a little bit," he added.

On where the next OPEC meeting would be held, Subroto said a few details remained to be cleared but an invitation by King Hassan of Morocco to hold the talks in his country was still on.

Farm trade row at centre of Irish castle meeting

GENEVA (R) — Five farm ministers from around the world meet in an Irish castle next week for another skirmish in a long-running battle over global agricultural policy.

The ministers from Australia, Canada, the European Community (EC), Japan and the United States will pick up where the heads of state of the seven largest industrialised democracies left off during an economic summit in Houston earlier this month.

The Houston meeting called a ceasefire in the fight over farm policy and agreed that a controversial draft plan for cutting agricultural subsidies and lowering trade barriers would serve as the blueprint for reform.

Negotiators at world trade talks in Geneva this week under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) endorsed the framework agreement and vowed to get down to serious discussions again from Aug. 27.

No negotiations

At the meeting in Ireland's Dromoland castle, hosted by EC Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry, ministers are not expected to make substantive decisions if only because they are unwilling to

jeopardise the goodwill established at Houston, diplomats said. "I can't imagine there would be negotiations," a U.S. official said. "The time is not ripe for that."

An EC Commission spokesman said Friday that in Ireland the EC would explain its position at the GATT talks but "the discussions there are not a substitute for the negotiations in Geneva."

The world agriculture community will be paying heed to the tone of the July 29-31 meeting, held in private, because it could indicate any willingness by the

principals in the farm trade war to compromise.

Recently U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter has emphasised the importance of making more radical reform in the area of export subsidies than in supports or trade barriers.

The EC, knowing the dismantling of its export restitution programme would lead to the unravelling of the common agricultural policy, has resisted Yeutter's call.

The EC has insisted it should be allowed to raise supports for some products provided it reduces the overall level of supports, but Washington has rejected the proposal, dubbed "rebalancing."

A clash over these issues indicates the two sides remain far

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Gorbachev defied by Baltic republics and Armenians

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev faced a double challenge Saturday as rebel Baltic republics refused to participate in talks on a new union treaty, and Armenian nationalists rejected a call to disarm.

The presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia issued a joint statement refusing to take part in talks on a treaty to bind the 15 Soviet republics together in a looser federation offering greater autonomy.

"Representatives of the three Baltic countries did not participate in work on a USSR union treaty, and in future do not consider it possible to take part in this process," they said.

A spokesman for the Armenian National Movement told Reuters the southern republic's reply to Gorbachev's call to disarm was also likely to be negative.

"Any support or neutral attitude to Gorbachev's decree is excluded. Documents to be adopted by parliament will be negative in any case," the spokesman said by telephone from the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

He said a response to the call to disarm was expected this weekend.

The commander of Armenia's main outlaw paramilitary group said Friday he would defy Gor-

bachiev's order to lay down arms and disband in 15 days, and warned of bloodshed if Soviet troops tried to enforce it.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said that three days after the decree was issued, no weapons had been surrendered in Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian enclave in neighbouring Azerbaijan locked in bloody conflict over sovereignty.

Gorbachev, trying to prevent such disputes, agreed a month ago to a full review of the union treaty. But he faces opposition not only from independence-seeking Baltic republics but also from separatist movements in other regions.

Last week Gorbachev aide Grigory Yevgenov said a draft treaty would probably be agreed by December. The Kremlin wants to retain control of key areas, such as defence, currency, energy and transport.

Saturday's defiant Baltic statement said ties with Moscow should be based on treaties signed before 1940, the year the three states were absorbed into the Soviet Union in a secret deal with Nazi Germany.

Recognition of independence was a precondition of any future agreement with the Soviet government, it said.

The Baltic presidents — Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania, Anatolijs Gorbunovs of Latvia and Arnold Runtel of Estonia — said they wanted to negotiate independence with Moscow either together, simultaneously or in close coordination.

Their statement was issued after a meeting Friday in the Latvian resort of Jurmala with Boris Yeltsin, radical president of the Russian Federation, the biggest Soviet republic.

The three Baltic republics are expected to sign political and economic treaties with the Russian government.

Yeltsin said a treaty with Latvia may be ready for signing within 45 days. A Latvian delegation is due to arrive in Moscow on July 30 for talks on the subject.

The deputy head of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, said Saturday Russia was also negotiating with other republics.

Commenting on recent talks with Lithuania in Moscow, TASS quoted him as saying relations would not be subject to pressure from above. "We hope we will succeed in complementing the talks which are being conducted by the central government."

S. Korean dissidents to cross border to North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean dissidents said Saturday they plan to cross the border into North Korea on Aug. 6 to attend a planning meeting for a joint unification rally.

Almost as soon as they announced their intentions, they became involved in a squabble, with the Seoul government over the make-up of the planning committee and who might be allowed to travel to the Communist North.

The Aug. 15 rally, approved in principle by both governments, would mark the first contact between civilian organisations of the two Koreas. In the past, South Korean authorities have blocked such contacts out of fear they could turn into radical anti-Seoul protests.

The Seoul government said dissidents can go only if the committee represents "all walks of life." Dissidents said it was up to them to decide who went and it would be people who have done preparatory work for the rally.

The impulse was unlikely to be settled quickly and was an indication of the distrust and confrontational nature surrounding inter-Korea politics.

On Thursday, officials from the North and South signed an agreement calling for the first meeting of their prime ministers, to be held in Seoul on Sept. 4-7. Within hours the two sides changed each other with "intensity" and "propaganda."

The outcome of the joint rally and completion of the prime minister meetings are seen as a sign of the future course of inter-Korean relations. The rally is to be held on the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, a holiday celebrated on both sides of the border.

The South Korean dissidents plan to cross the border at the town of Pannunjom in the north, but the crossing earlier this week by five North Koreans.

The North Koreans had planned to join South Korean dissidents for a rally committee meeting in Seoul, but two days of controversy between government officials over housing and other arrangements forced a cancellation.

Proposed sites for the rally include the capitals of either North or South Korea or Pannunjom.

No civilians have crossed the Korean border with the approval of both governments since a 1985 family exchange programme. Meanwhile Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Saturday that Tokyo should normalise ties with North Korea and the Soviet Union.

"We are ready to help the Soviet Union build a market economy," he told 300 participants at a seminar of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in this mountain resort north of Tokyo. "And the Soviet Union recognises us as a major trading partner."

Taylor announces new government as rebel forces fight for Monrovia

ABIDJAN (R) — Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor announced the formation of a new government as his forces and those of a rival rebel group battled their way to the last stronghold of President Samuel Doe in central Monrovia.

Taylor said in a radio broadcast Friday night that Doe's administration had been dissolved and he had formed a new government, the National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly.

He promised free multi-party elections within six months and called on the remnants of Doe's army to surrender.

Fighting reached the heart of the capital Friday as rebel forces surged over two bridges from the port area of Bushrod Island into the Mamba Point diplomatic quarter.

But foreign correspondents in the city said these forces belonged to Prince Johnson, leader of a dissident rebel faction opposed to Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

Taylor's forces were believed to be still 10 kilometres from the city centre in the eastern suburb of Paynesville.

Diplomats fear infighting among the rebels once Doe's last bastion, his heavily fortified seat of power, is overcome.

Shortly after Taylor announced his new government, the U.S.

State Department said Doe was still holding out at the eight-storey mansion.

Diplomats say he is holed up with several hundred elite troops from his minority Krahn tribe and a large stockpile of ammunition.

The two rebel factions appear to be fighting separately against Doe, but Johnson's forces, which are thought to number only a few hundred, have clashed several times with Taylor's 15,000-strong NPFL over the past two months.

Diplomats say Taylor's forces would probably win any showdown between the two groups.

Despite Johnson's prominent role in the battle for Monrovia, his forces control only a few northern suburbs of the city.

Taylor's mainstream NPFL on the other hand controls the eastern suburbs of Monrovia, the international airport at Robertsfield, the port of Buchanan — Liberia's second largest city — and most of the densely-forested interior.

Doe has vowed to fight to the death, but diplomats say the 38-year-old master sergeant, who seized power in a bloody coup 10 years ago, is drinking heavily and has lost touch with reality.

He is also thought to be a virtual prisoner of his indisciplined and demoralised troops, who have subjected Monrovia to

an orgy of looting and tribal killings.

The soldiers' main victims are members of the Gio and Mano tribes, firm supporters of the rebel movement.

Diplomats said this week alone, over 100 Manos and Gio have been dragged from their houses and hospital beds to be butchered by Doe's soldiers. Many of their bodies have been dumped on Monrovia's beaches.

Doe's Krahn tribe accounts for only five per cent of Liberia's 2.3 million population and it now fears massive reprisals by the victorious rebels.

Officials in neighbouring Ivory Coast said 1,000 Krahn a day have been fleeing across the border for the past week.

Although the rebels are known to have carried out some tribal killings, foreign correspondents observing their advance into Monrovia Friday said they seemed well-disciplined and respectful of civilian lives.

Taylor, a 42-year-old U.S.-trained economist and former Doe associate, wants to promote private investment and retain Liberia's traditionally close ties with the United States.

Liberia was founded by freed U.S. slaves in 1847 and its population is unique in Africa for speaking English with a strong American accent.



Zsa Zsa and frog go to jail

EL SEGUNDO, California (R) — Zsa Zsa Gabor, clutching a "good luck" stuffed frog, went to jail Friday to serve a three-day sentence for slapping a Beverly Hills policeman. Stepping out of a black Mercedes-Benz before the cell doors clanged behind her, Gabor said she had bought a designer prison dress — "lots of stripes, darlings" — and had T-shirts showing her looking out through prison bars. Asked if she was worried about eating jail food, the eight-times married Gabor, who says she is 58 although she was recently shown to be 72, replied: "I'm going to eat salad." A police spokesman said Gabor will spend her nights in a cell and her days doing clerical work. Under California law, Gabor was allowed to choose her jail. She chose the small city jail at El Segundo, a small California coastal town on the southern outskirts of Los Angeles, known for its friendly inhabitants.

Bush calls comedienne's singing 'disgraceful'

LOS ANGELES (R) — A tortured rendition of the U.S. national anthem by the country's top television comedienne has caused a national furor, with President George Bush joining in the fray Friday to slam her singing as "disgraceful." Bush told reporters after Roseanne Barr, the outspoken, abrasive star of the popular television series, was booted by fans after singing a shrill, out-of-tune version of the anthem before a baseball game Thursday night. California radio and television stations were deluged with protests after the game between the San Diego Padres and the Cincinnati Reds with callers saying her version had been unpatriotic and obscene. Her screeching rendition was shown repeatedly on U.S. television Friday and America's newspapers featured front-page photographs of the pudgy actress grabbing her crotch in a rude gesture to a booning audience after the song. The gesture is not uncommon on the baseball pitch from dissatisfied players and Barr said Friday at a news conference that it had been suggested by some of the Padres players. Barr added that she was unrepentant about her singing and challenged Bush to do better.

U.K. army runs short of bullets

LONDON (R) — The British army has run short of bullets for submachine-guns, and scaled down target practice until new stocks arrive, according to the Defence Ministry. But a spokesman insisted Friday that the "operational effectiveness of the army is not affected" by the shortage, caused when a batch of ammunition was withdrawn after reaching the end of its life. "There have been restrictions on non-essential training which means some non-essential target practice has not been undertaken," he said. "A contract is now in hand for the replacement of the ammunition by the end of the summer." The ministry, however, was unable to confirm reports that a £15 million (£27 million) emergency supply of bullets sent from India had turned out to be faulty. Instead of firing in a straight line, they were reported to have looped upwards and fallen short of the target.

Depardieu charged with drunken-driving

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France (AP) — Prosecutors charged popular actor Gerard Depardieu with drunken-driving stemming from an accident that slightly injured a woman and her daughter. Depardieu, who recently won the best-actor prize at the Cannes Film Festival for his performance in "Cyrano de Bergerac," will be tried on Aug. 6 in nearby Riom, court sources said. He is charged with driving a 1985 Renault 25 with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 per cent after his Renault-25 collided with a car driven by Jean-Luc Chennal on a country road near Pay-de-Dôme. Chennal's wife and daughter were slightly hurt. Depardieu told police he was speaking on his car phone and blinded by the setting sun when the accident occurred. He had been returning to his hotel in Friday after viewing director Claude Berri's new film Uranus. Both cars were travelling about 40 kilometres per hour, police said.

Chamorro vows to replace Ortega

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said she will replace army leader General Humberto Ortega "at any moment" citing the decision as evidence of her independence from leftist Sandinista opposition.

In televised statements late Thursday Chamorro said General Ortega's role in her government had always been temporary and that the army leader was under

her control. "At any moment he will go," Chamorro said. "This is something I am going to decide and not something you could call a pact." She gave no further details.

General Ortega is the older brother of Daniel Ortega, former president and leader of the Sandinista opposition.

Chamorro was responding to cri-

ticism from hard-line anti-Sandinistas among her own supporters who have said she has made pacts with the Sandinistas and was co-governing with the opposition. The hardliners, who are led by Vice President Virgilio Godoy, criticised the army's actions during a Sandinista-led strike earlier this month. They said the army dragged its feet in responding to Chamorro's order to clear the barricaded streets of Managua.

14 soldiers killed in Sri Lanka rebel ambush

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Fourteen soldiers were killed in an ambush in Tamil separatist guerrillas in eastern Sri Lanka, military sources said Saturday.

They said the rebels removed the weapons of the dead men after Friday night's attack on a road in Kattaparihan village in eastern Trincomalee district.

Sixteen other soldiers in the 30-man group returning from a routine patrol managed to escape from the 50 to 60 heavily armed rebels and dash to a nearby army camp, they said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas, the strongest Tamil militant group, resumed their bloody campaign last month for a separate Tamil minority state in the northeast.

On June 11, the rebels attacked security forces, breaking a year-long ceasefire and peace talks with the government. More than 1,600 people have been killed since then.

The Kattaparihan attack raised doubts as to whether security forces had fully cleared the eastern sector of Tiger guerrillas.

The government says troops moved to the north two weeks ago, after chasing the Tigers into the jungles in the eastern districts of Trincomalee, Amparar and Batticaloa. Fighting in the east was mostly in the jungle, officials said.

Eastern residents said the Tigers were still active in the villages.

"The army goes around during the day. At night, the Tigers are prowling," a resident said.

Police commandos on bicycles zig-zag through jungle tracks, dodging landmines in a deadly game of hide-and-seek with teenage Tamil rebels.

It's the "bicycle brigade," as they call themselves, against the "baby brigade," as young militants of the Tamil Tiger militia are known. Some of them are hardly 12 years old.

"The bicycle tyre has more chances of avoiding the buried explosive than a boot. The damage causes less injuries as the blast is cushioned by the bicycle," said senior commando Upali Sahabandu.

U.S.: Castro is exporting Cubans

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, in an escalating war of words, has accused Cuban President Fidel Castro of trying to export his people rather than face legitimate questions they raise about his regime.

"We reject Castro's attempt to export his internal problems to the United States by encouraging Cubans to leave," State Department spokesman Riehard Boucher told reporters.

Cuba's problems can only be resolved at home through democratic process and freedom of speech," he said.

"Castro is trying to get rid of people rather than face the legitimate questions that they raise about his regime," he added.

Boucher indicated there were no plans to change U.S. immigration policy to allow a new mass exodus of Cubans into the United States, such as occurred in 1980, when 125,000 Cubans came during the Mariel Boatlift.

In a three-hour speech Thursday, Castro made a surprise proposal for resolving a bitter controversy with Spain over Cubans who want to leave the Communist-ruled island.

The Cuban leader challenged the United States and Western Europe to issue entry visas to Cubans, saying his government will allow all those who want to leave the country.

"If they want, we can make an agreement, Spain and the European Community and ourselves... for free exit to the right-wing community of Europe for all who want to go," Castro told the cheering crowd.

If the United States wanted to receive people who said they felt persecuted in Cuba, "let them send the boats," he added.

Some 22 Cubans are now sheltering in foreign missions in Havana, 18 of them at the Spanish embassy and four at the Italian ambassador's residence.

Castro also accused Spain of joining a U.S. campaign of hostility against Cuba.

Boucher, at the department's daily news briefing, rejected those charges. "We have officially protested what we see as baseless and irresponsible accusations that the United States government is in any way responsible for the crisis," he said.

Spain has rejected Castro's accusations that it is an accomplice in a U.S. campaign of hostility against Cuba.

Filipino quake victims survive 11 days in hotel

BAGUIO, Philippines (R) — A man and a woman pulled from the rubble of a Philippines hotel 11 days after it collapsed in a powerful earthquake survived by drinking urine and rainwater, an official said Saturday.

Friday night's dramatic rescue of security guard Arnel Calabia and Luisa Mallorca, a cleaner at the Baguio Hyatt Terraces Hotel, drew dozens of people to the ruins Saturday with renewed hope that relatives could be found alive.

Doctors ordered Calabia, 27, and Mallorca, 23, flown to Manila for medical treatment, but heavy monsoon rains prevented the flight, as well as hindering helicopter relief work for thousands of other victims of the July 16 quake.

"They had no food and drank urine for the first six days," Horacio Paredes, a government spokesman, told reporters after talking to the two survivors.

"When it started to rain, they managed to gather the water and used that to survive until they were rescued," he said.

Calabia told Baguio reporters after his rescue: "In the first four days, I felt neither hunger nor thirst, but in the last few days... I survived on rainwater." He said he dived under a table for shelter when the earthquake struck.

In Manila Saturday, President

Corazon Aquino thanked the Filipino gold miners who recovered the two from a lift shaft deep under layers of collapsed concrete in the hotel.

She said in a statement they symbolised "our people's unswerving faith, determination to rise from this disaster, and aspirations for a much brighter future."

The rescuers said Saturday a fly led them to decomposing bodies near the lift shaft where they found Mallorca pinned down by a fallen beam.

"There was a fly hovering near the seventh or eighth floor. We followed it till we reached the elevator shaft," said Raymond Chu-Chunen, a miner who led about 20 rescuers. "We explored the area and there we found the woman."

Faint cries for help nearby drew them to a man buried under layers of crumbled concrete.

Baguio, 200 kilometres north of Manila, was the hardest hit by the 7.7 Richter Scale quake, which devastated a large part of the northern Philippines, killing at least 1,600 people and injuring 3,300. More than 1,000 others are still missing, civil defence officials say.

Doctors said three of Calabia's fingers on his right hand, in which gangrene had set in after being pinned down by slabs of concrete, would have to be amputated.

U.S., ASEAN discuss formation of Cambodian council

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and South East Asian nations were at odds Saturday over whether the Khmer Rouge should be part of a national council proposed for transitional rule in Cambodia.

"If we are serious about the objective of Cambodian self-determination, we need... to urge the formation of a Supreme National Council and the holding of U.N.-organised elections," Baker said. "That impetus can come from offering new diplomatic incentives, and from showing no tolerance for the Khmer Rouge's dialogue of death."

The matter has been a major issue at the annual meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations, or ASEAN, with its major trading partners.

ASEAN comprises Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines. The trading partners represented are the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the European Community (EC).

ASEAN's position is that a Cambodian National Council would have to include "all shades of political opinion."

The association assumes that the Khmer Rouge would be included if only because it is too powerful to be excluded from any meaningful settlement to Cambodia's civil war.

Baker announced last week that the United States would withdraw recognition of the United Nations seat held by the three-member Cambodia Resist-

ance Coalition because it includes the Khmer Rouge, which is blamed for killing hundreds of thousands of Cambodians when it ruled the country from 1975-78.

Baker said Washington would open talks with Vietnam, the main backer of the Cambodian government in Phnom Penh, and possibly with Phnom Penh itself to try to end the fighting.

ASEAN wants the Cambodian guerrilla coalition to form the council, which would occupy the U.N. seat at the next session of the General Assembly.

The association expects former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk to play a key role. His non-Communist followers, plus anti-Communists under former premier Son Sam, are the weaker two partners in the rebel coalition.

Sihanouk issued a statement from Pyongyang, North Korea, this week that said there would be no peace in Cambodia unless the Khmer Rouge were allowed to participate in a political settlement on an equal footing with other warring factions.

A series of inconclusive peace talks since 1988 sponsored by ASEAN has included representatives of the Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk, Son Sam and Premier Hun Sen's Phnom Penh government.

As envisioned by ASEAN, the Supreme Council would be headed by Sihanouk and serve as a repository for Cambodian sovereignty until free elections could be held under U.N. auspices.

A senior U.S. State Depart-

ment official said formation of the council is the core of the issue.

Washington sees the council as "a group of Cambodian people, not necessarily representatives of factions, that are committed to a fair and free election process... what clearly does not fit in with that is a group of people trying to shoot their way into power," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Insofar as the Khmer Rouge continue what they've done over the past months and focus on a dialogue of the battlefield, a dialogue of death, then they clearly are not participants in it," he said.

Meanwhile plans for a meeting of the three Cambodian guerrilla groups in Paris next week have been shelved because the Khmer Rouge appears not to want to take part, a guerrilla spokesman in Bangkok said Saturday.

A spokesman for the Khmer Rouge's National Liberation Front (KNLF) said the Khmer Rouge had said it would not send a representative to Paris.

The meeting was proposed by KNLF leader Son Sam to discuss the latest initiatives to settle the 11-year Cambodian conflict.

The settlement process has been thrown into disarray by a sudden change in U.S. policy last week, when it withdrew diplomatic support for the three-way guerrilla coalition.

The decision, accompanied by an announcement of direct talks between Washington and Hanoi, which backs the Cambodian gov-

ernment in Phnom Penh, has forced all sides to reassess their approaches to the conflict.

Hun Sen said Friday that he is willing to negotiate with the United States about holding elections in his country.

The Cambodian prime minister, in an interview from Asia with National Public Radio, also said he welcomes the U.S. decision to hold direct talks with Vietnam on resolving the civil war in his country, but he warned against intervention in Cambodia's affairs.

"I welcome the negotiations between the USA and Vietnam over Cambodia," Hun Sen said. "But I think they have to admit the fact that the issue of the domestic problem of Cambodia must be resolved only by the people of Cambodia," he added.

Hun Sen has opposed a proposal for U.N. forces to oversee the installation of a temporary Cambodian government and to make sure that free elections are held.

But during the interview, he said he was "personally prepared to discuss with the United States government and others to negotiate about these issues of general elections in Cambodia."

Hun Sen rejected any role for the Khmer Rouge in an interim government, saying it would only open the door for the murderous faction to gain a foothold in a permanent government.

Any temporary role for the Khmer Rouge "would be a chaos, and that would also destroy the result of the final political solution," he said.